

Latvian MP arrested for disorderly conduct

A Latvian MP was arrested on Friday for disorderly conduct in the Jordanian Parliament. The MP, who was visiting the country, was taken into custody after a heated exchange with other members of the assembly.

Russia's population dwindles

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's population is declining at an alarming rate, according to a new report. The country's population is estimated to have fallen by 1.5 million in the last year, with the trend expected to continue.

Berri guards injured in shootout

BEIRUT (AFP) — Two military police guards were wounded Friday during a gun battle with the bodyguards of a Lebanese politician. The incident occurred in a crowded area, leading to significant chaos.

Arafat seeks help to end deadlock in peace talks

YASER ARAFAT, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has appealed to the United States and other countries to help break the deadlock in peace negotiations. He emphasized the need for a renewed commitment to the peace process.

Glenn Miller lost recordings found in London

LONDON (AP) — A collection of recordings made by Glenn Miller and his band during World War II has been found in London. The recordings, which were believed to be lost, include some of Miller's most popular songs.

Algeria party rejects presidential poll

TUNIS (R) — An Algerian party has rejected a presidential election, claiming that the process is unfair and does not represent the will of the people. The party called for a new form of governance.

Aid workers held hostage in Sudan

GENEVA (AFP) — Armed rebels in southern Sudan have held five foreign aid workers hostage. The rebels demand the withdrawal of government forces from the area and the release of political prisoners.

Posuvalyuk holds talks with Arafat

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk met with Yasser Arafat on Friday. The two discussed the current state of the peace process and the role of Russia in the Middle East.

Kabariti heads for Washington meeting

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is set to leave for Washington on Friday. He will attend a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Israeli withdrawal fulfills key condition in peace treaty

Jordanian sovereignty restored to all of Kingdom's territory. The Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a crucial step towards achieving a lasting peace in the region.

Abdul Meguid arrives tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid is expected to arrive in Amman tomorrow. He will meet with Jordanian officials to discuss the Arab League's role in the peace process.

Prayers in Aqaba

His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at the southern military zone command mosque in Aqaba. The King was accompanied by several high-ranking officials and military leaders.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

Volume 19 Number 5841

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1995, RAMADAN II, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israeli withdrawal fulfills key condition in peace treaty

Jordanian sovereignty restored to all of Kingdom's territory

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAQOURA — The departure of the last Israeli soldier from Jordanian territory on Thursday ended Israel's occupation of the Kingdom's land for several decades and signalled the completion of one of the most significant phases of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

By withdrawing its forces to newly-marked international borders, Israel met with one of two key conditions in the peace treaty: Evacuation from Jordanian territory it has been occupying since 1950.

The other condition of the treaty is Israeli respect for Jordan's right to its full share of waters in the north. Negotiations are continuing behind the scenes on building new facilities such as dams and pipelines that would ensure the flow of an additional 215 million cubic metres of water to Jordanian territory every year.

The Israeli withdrawal, coupled with the signing of the first Israeli-Jordanian agreements on cooperation

as called for in the peace treaty (see page 3), also cleared the way for serious moves towards realising joint projects.

"We are very optimistic of the period ahead, a period of consolidation," said His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday, adding that possibilities of development and cooperation were numerous if both sides had enough goodwill and sincerity.

"We have regained our full rights in territory and water," King Hussein said during a visit he paid to this northern frontier shortly after the Israeli army formally handed over an 832-dunum plot of land to Jordan in a short ceremony held near 60-year-old dams spanning the Yarmouk and Jordan Rivers.

"It is one of the greatest accomplishments of Jordan and marks a key moment in our history and life," said the King, wearing his full military uniform as supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, as officers and soldiers from the 12th Royal Mechanised Division stationed in the area cheered him.

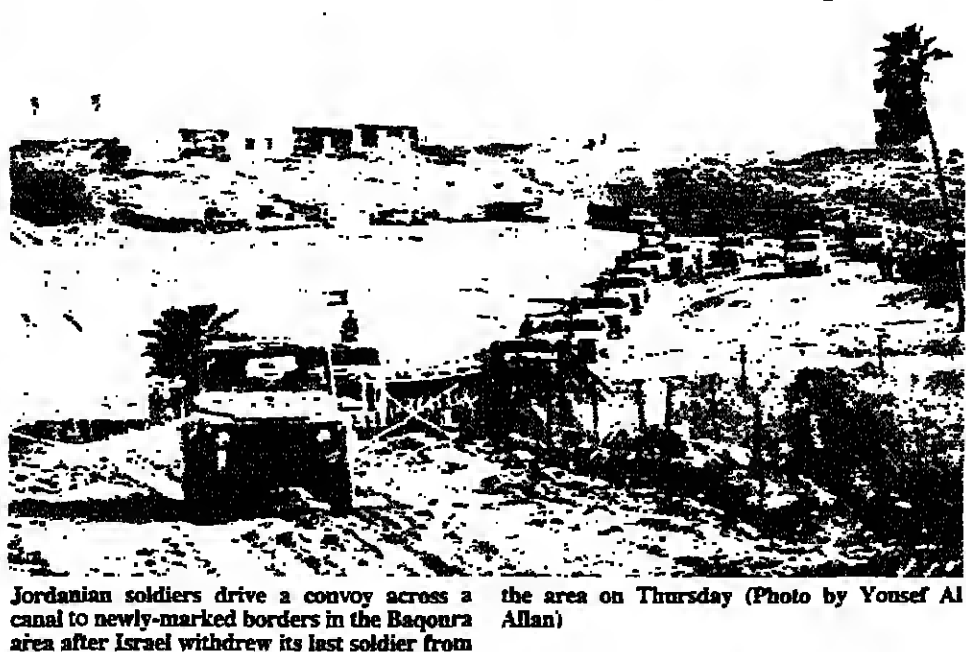
While he acknowledged

that Jordanian-Israeli cooperation held out "unlimited possibilities... and we have covered a lot of ground," the King cautioned against expecting too high and quick expectations of the dividends of peace. "Many people have too many expectations," he said.

The King, briefed by the commander of the regional division on the features of the Israeli withdrawal and of the land where Jordanian sovereignty was restored, also highlighted another point — Jordan, in direct negotiations with Israel, achieved Israeli withdrawal from its land without having to agree to the stationing of foreign forces to supervise the truce.

Although the King did not spell it out, he was obviously referring to the continued presence of international observers on the borders of Israel and Egypt under their 1979 Camp David agreements and proposals to station similar forces on Syria's Golan Heights in a final settlement between Syria and Israel.

Experts in international law note that recent history



Jordanian soldiers drive a convoy across the area on Thursday (Photo by Yusef Al Allan) after Israel withdrew its last soldier from

The history of the land near Baqoura

THE 832 dunums of land that Israel evacuated on Thursday was occupied by the Jewish state in 1950 when it pushed its military lines forward and cut off Jordanian access to the congruence of the Yarmouk and Jordan Rivers.

According to Munther Haddadin, a senior Jordanian negotiator with Israel, Jewish farmers from a nearby settlement (or kibbutz as Israelis call it) in the land of Palestine — used to cultivate part of the lands since 1923 under, most probably, the laws of the Ottoman empire.

Many families from the colony, which is now known as Ashdod Yacov with about 600 residents and located within Israeli territory as defined in the British mandate maps, have been living in the area since the turn of the century.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 stipulates that the Kingdom would allow Israeli owners in the land now under Jordanian sovereignty to continue their farming there under annual permits for 25 years and allow the free disposal of the land by its owners under Jordanian laws and regulations.

The main crops of the land are cotton, avocados and other fruits.

A similar arrangement is also applied in the Al Ghamat area in the south. The precise size of the two areas is not known, but it is less than 30 square kilometres, according to officials.

Israel has undertaken not to allow the areas under Jordanian sovereignty where Israeli farmers will work to be used to undermine the peace and stability.

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PRAYERS IN AQABA: His Majesty King Hussein attends Friday prayers at the southern military zone command mosque in Aqaba. The King was accompanied by several high-ranking officials and military leaders.

Kabariti heads for Washington meeting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is set to leave for Washington on Friday. He will attend a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the troubled Middle East peace process.

The Sunday meeting in Washington was decided upon by an unprecedented summit in Cairo among the leaders of Egypt, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israel and Jordan on how to revitalise the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is already in the U.S. and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa was scheduled to leave Tokyo early Saturday for Washington after a visit to Japan that began on Wednesday.

It was not immediately known who would represent the PLO in the Washington meeting. Reports said earlier this week that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had not made up his mind whether to assign Farouk Kaddoumi, the Tunis-based head of the Political Department of the PLO, Nabil Shaath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Gaza-based Palestine National Authority (PNA), or Ahmad Qourna, minister of economy in the PNA, to the meeting.

According to a senior State Department official, the U.S. expects the Arabs and Israeli participants in the meeting to suggest means to break the deadlock to the Israel-PLO negotiations to advance Palestinian autonomy beyond the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho into the rest of the West Bank.

Gaza and Jericho went under Palestinian autonomy in May but a spate of deadly violence by opponents of the peace process has put a brake to the implementation of the next phase of the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel in September 1993.

A meeting between Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday failed to break the deadlock (see separate story). A senior State Department official said in Washington last week that "we want to

Posuvalyuk holds talks with Arafat

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk met with Yasser Arafat on Friday. The two discussed the current state of the peace process and the role of Russia in the Middle East.

He has already visited Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. In Amman on Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Posuvalyuk, who conveyed to the King the congratulations of the Russian president and leadership over the withdrawal of Israel from Jordanian lands.

Sharif Zeid and the Russian envoy discussed Jordanian-Russian relations and means of enhancing them, especially in economic cooperation and trade.

Arafat seeks help to end deadlock in peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has asked the United States and other countries to step into the deadlocked peace talks and pressure Israel into implementing the next stage of Palestinian autonomy, his aides said Friday.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), made the appeal after he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday failed to reach agreement on any of the disputes that have stalled the negotiations for months.

Mr. Rabin told Mr. Arafat that he would not discuss a troop withdrawal from the West Bank towns until the PLO leader ordered a crackdown against Palestinian militants responsible for a series of attacks that have killed 55 Israelis since October.

Mr. Arafat countered that he was doing his best and pointed to the arrests of dozens of militants in the Gaza Strip this week.

But the Israelis dismissed Mr. Arafat's efforts as halfhearted. Mr. Rabin also turned down Palestinian demands for other gestures, such as lifting the closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing that killed 21 Israelis.

The closure prevents tens of thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs in Israel, worsening an already desperate economic situation in the Palestinian areas.

The difficulties have caused a long delay in expanding the nine-month-old Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho

throughout the West Bank, as stipulated in the Israel-PLO accord.

Mr. Arafat also appealed to Norway and Russia to break the deadlock in negotiations with Israel ahead of fresh peace talks next week.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Mr. Arafat sent messages to the leaders of the U.S., Russia, and Norway on "the latest developments in the peace process and the difficulties it faces."

He met the U.S., Russian and Norwegian consuls on Thursday night to press home his fears.

Mr. Arafat also telephoned Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and complained to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that Israel was not fulfilling the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy.

Israel was "building new settlements in the occupied territories (and) postponing the redeployment of troops, enforcing the isolation of Jerusalem and carrying out collective punishment of the Palestinian population by sealing off the occupied territories."

However, Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi on Friday weakened claims by a PLO minister that peace efforts had hit a "real crisis."

"The negotiations have not stopped. We are still negotiating directly. There will be meetings next week," Dr. Tibi pointed out.

Israel rejected any talk of crisis, referring only to "difficulties."

The PLO chairman had stormed out of the summit on the border between Gaza and Israel after Mr. Rabin re-

Aid workers held hostage in Sudan

GENEVA (AFP) — Armed rebels in southern Sudan have held five foreign aid workers hostage. The rebels demand the withdrawal of government forces from the area and the release of political prisoners.

The aid workers, who are of various nationalities, were taken into custody by the rebels in a village in the south. The rebels claimed that the government forces were involved in human rights abuses in the area.

The Sudanese government has denied the allegations and has offered to release the aid workers in exchange for the withdrawal of the rebels. However, the rebels have refused the offer and have demanded more concessions.

The situation in southern Sudan has been volatile for some time, with frequent clashes between the government forces and the rebels. The aid workers' capture has further heightened the tensions in the region.

Algeria party rejects presidential poll

TUNIS (R) — An Algerian party which joined opposition talks in Rome to seek a solution to the country's bloody conflict has rejected the authorities' plan to hold presidential elections this year to resolve the crisis. The Workers' Party, headed by one of Algeria's rare women politicians, Lounisa Hanoune, told President Liamine Zerroual that such a ballot would only push the country to move "evils and atrocities and towards the chasm" and the dramatic situation shows this more and more each day.

The party was replying to an invitation by Mr. Zerroual in January to comment on the planned election and changes to the electoral laws.

Fastlink...

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. and Lebanon hold 'frank' talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States and Lebanon said in a joint statement issued here that the two countries had "frank and productive" talks relating "to the security of American citizens in Lebanon."

The statement issued by the State Department noted that the two-day talks were conducted in "an excellent atmosphere" and the two delegations will now inform their governments of the talks "in order for them to determine further steps to be taken in this process."

The statement did not mention the U.S. ban on Americans wishing to travel to Beirut, a sore point for the Lebanese who feel the ban is no longer justified. The State Department is reportedly scheduled to review the ban later this month.

Heading the American side in the talks were Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert H. Pelletreau and the coordinator for counterterrorism, Philip C. Wilcox. Jr. The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defense.

The Lebanese delegation was composed of the Lebanese ambassador to the United States, Riad Tabbarah, and advisers representing the internal security forces, general security, state security, airport security, and civil aviation.

The State Department's acting spokeswoman, Christine Shelly, said at the regular briefing, hours before the joint statement was issued, that the purpose of the talks has been "to discuss broad security agenda issues with Lebanese officials and not specifically to take decisions on individual issues."

Iranian ambassador claims militants will oust Clinton

BAALBEK (AP) — Iran's ambassador to Syria says Tehran has placed militant Muslim "soldiers" around the world to bring down America and Israel.

"I tell (President) Clinton, I tell his allies, I tell his lackey, Israel, your day, your end, is coming soon. Islam is coming to you soon," Mohammad Hassan Akhtari told a rally Thursday night in this ancient Bekaa Valley town in east Lebanon.

Baalbek is a main base of Hizbollah, the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group fighting Israeli forces and allies in South Lebanon — the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

Bad telephone lines delayed the transmission of Mr. Akhtari's speech to news agencies.

"Iran has soldiers spread out in groups around the world ready for action, for jihad (holy war). They have a far reach," Mr. Akhtari added.

Mr. Akhtari drove in from Damascus and returned to the Syrian capital after the rally, which was organized by Hizbollah, or Party of God, Iran's main ally in Lebanon.

His threat drew shouts of "Death to the great Satan," the Iranian regime's moniker for America, and "Death to Israel" from the estimated crowd of 500 attending the rally.

Mr. Akhtari vowed that "Iran will never succumb to any form of U.S. pressure through Europe or elsewhere," he said. Lebanon's Hizbollah will remain an "essential base of Iranian soldiers fighting Israel and the enemies of Islam."

That appeared to be a warning to the Lebanese government against giving in to persistent U.S. demands that Hizbollah be disarmed like all other Lebanese civil war militias.

The American administration has pressed this demand since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war, making it a basis condition for lifting a U.S. travel ban imposed against Lebanon nearly eight years ago.

The ban, which also severed air links between the United States and Lebanon, followed a spate of hostage-taking, suicide bombing and aircraft hijacking attacks on American targets sponsored by Hizbollah.

Israel also is insisting on a crackdown on Hizbollah as a precondition for withdrawal from a border enclave it occupies in South Lebanon since 1985.

Hizbollah has been spearheading a guerrilla war to evict Israel from the enclave, which was created to shield northern Israeli towns from cross-border guerrilla raids.

"Iran is under immense pressure to discontinue its assistance to Hizbollah and Islamic groups fighting Israel in Palestine. Iran will never give in," said Mr. Akhtari.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn protests as Turkey expels German

ANKARA (AFP) — Bonn demanded an explanation from the Turkish government Friday after Ankara expelled a German journalist for contacts with the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The German ambassador to Ankara was to make a verbal protest to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, demanding a full explanation about Corinna Gutstedt's expulsion Thursday, a German diplomat said.

On her return to Frankfurt, Ms. Gutstedt alleged she had been strip-searched by police after her arrest, refused access to a lawyer, and had her portable computer destroyed. The ambassador said such ill-treatment would be "totally unacceptable" if confirmed, the diplomat said.

Ankara has made no official comment on the matter, but a government official told AFP that Ms. Gutstedt was "an agitator" who had been expelled after "a long inquiry" into her links with the PKK. "She was receiving money from the terrorist organisation," he alleged, using the official terminology for the PKK.

Egyptian unions mobilise against legal change

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian professional associations dominated by Islamists have mobilised to thwart a legal amendment which they think the government will use to drive the Islamists out of office. The amendment, which strengthens the role of the judiciary in supervising association elections, is at committee stage in parliament and could go before the full house next week. "Eruption of anger sweeps professional associations in protest at conspiracy" said the opposition newspaper Al Shaah, which is close to the unrecognised Muslim Brotherhood.

Ankara thanks Athens for rescuing pilot

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's military commander has thanked his Greek counterpart for Athens' help in rescuing a downed air force pilot whose plane ditched in the Aegean Sea during an exercise. The Anatolia news agency said Friday. The message from the chief of staff of Turkey's armed forces, General Ismail Hakki Karadayi, to his Greek counterpart Admiral Christos Lymbertis, also hoped for "future collaboration" between the two countries. The crash led to a war of words between the two neighbours Wednesday, the Greek Defence Ministry accusing the Turkish plane of violating its airspace. Turkey said the F-16 was on an exercise flight over international waters. The pilot ejected to safety and was picked up by a Greek ship.

Israeli girl, 16, suspected of kidnapping

TEL AVIV (R) — A 16-year-old Israeli girl was named by police on Friday as the mystery woman who kidnapped the daughter of a wealthy diamond merchant for a \$2 million ransom. A juvenile court on Friday remanded her in custody for eight days pending the filing of charges against her. The teenager was widely believed to be the youngest person ever arrested for kidnapping in Israel. Her alleged male accomplice, aged 49, was shot dead by police in Tel Aviv on Tuesday hours after the pair abducted the 19-year-old soldier and later her father as he tried to negotiate her release. Diamond merchant Asher Gertler freed himself just before the shootout. Daughter Keren Gertler surfaced unharmed in northern Israel, where she had been held by the woman accomplice who let her go after failing to hear from the other kidnapper.

Egypt: Peace talks near 'make or break' stage

TOKYO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned on Friday that the Middle East peace process was near a "make or break" stage as Palestinian-Israeli talks remained deadlocked.

"The peace process is facing at this stage major difficulties. It is almost at the phase of make or break," Mr. Musa told a news conference in Tokyo.

He was speaking one day after a summit between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin broke down.

The two men failed to end a deadlock over better security for Israelis and a ban on Palestinians entering the Jewish state.

They agreed on little more than to meet again in a week's time, while officials tried to resolve these and other differences over extending self-rule to the occupied West Bank.

"Nothing kills the peace process more than stagnation. The stagnation plays into the hands of terrorists and extremists," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Musa, who was to leave on Saturday for Washington for talks with PLO and Israeli officials, said his trip depended on progress made by the two sides.

"We will try again in Washington and try again," he said, adding: "At the moment there is still hope that the parties will stick to their commitments."

In Washington, Mr. Musa was scheduled to attend a meeting on Sunday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the foreign ministers of Israel and Jordan.

Mr. Musa said setbacks in the implementation of the 1993 Palestinian-Israeli peace pact had left Palestinians very frustrated because "they do not feel the dividends of peace."

The foreign minister noted Palestinian complaints about the building of new settlements in the Palestinian complaints about the building of new settlements in the occupied territories, a delay in redeploying Israeli troops, and the sealing of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Islamic Jihad suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22.

"If there is no progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, we wonder if there will be any progress toward the development of a full and comprehensive peace agreement," Mr. Musa said.

On the issue of extending the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), Mr. Musa warned that "all options are open" to Egypt if Israel shows no sign of accepting the 1968 treaty.

"Israel has a nuclear programme that lies beyond the international system, with no international supervision and no international link whatsoever," he said.

He urged Israel to discuss disarmament in the context of "building a new regional order" in the Middle East.

"We ask our neighbour Israel to subscribe to the NPT as other members of the international community would do," said Mr. Musa.

Egypt has indicated it may not renew its NPT adherence if Israel does not commit itself in principle to joining the treaty. An international conference to discuss the pact's renewal is scheduled to be held in April.

Arab states believe Israel possesses nuclear weapons, and strongly object to the fact that it has not signed the NPT. Israel has never confirmed whether it has nuclear weapons.

During his Japanese visit, Mr. Musa asked Tokyo to step up its financial backing for the peace process and also pushed for greater Japanese investment in Egypt.

Jail in Israel-run 'security zone' killed 14, group says

BEIRUT (R) — A total of 14 Arab prisoners have died since 1985 as a result of torture in an Israeli-controlled jail in South Lebanon, a Lebanese prisoner support group said on Friday.

Mohammad Safa of the Support Committee for Lebanese in Israeli Prisons urged the United Nations Human Rights Commission to pressure Israel into releasing sick, young and elderly prisoners and the seven women held in Khiam.

"If the Human Rights Commission does not initiate a solution, death threatens 300 captives in Khiam and 75 (Lebanese) detainees in (Israeli) prisons, held in conditions breaching international laws," Mr. Safa said in an open letter to the forum published by Beirut newspapers on Friday.

After mounting publicity from human rights groups, Israel and its Lebanese allies, who run Khiam, two weeks ago began to allow visits by relatives for the first time since the camp was established in 1985.

The hilltop jail, in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, is run by the client South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia but Israel has the ultimate say in it as in most things in the buffer zone where it has at least 1,000 troops.

Mr. Safa said prisoners were given electric shocks on their genitals, whipped with electric cables, hung from poles and had cigarette burns on their faces and chest.

"Because of these conditions, 14 prisoners have died since (the jail's) establishment in 1985," Mr. Safa added. It was the first time a figure had been put on deaths linked to Khiam.

Three Khiam prisoners died in December and January — one in a hospital near Khiam after torture and two in Beirut hospitals immediately after their release.

"We demand our meeting work... to open the jail doors to the International Red Cross and humanitarian agencies and to consider the deal allowing the captive families to visit them in Khiam incomplete and below the minimum required," Mr. Safa said.

Khiam's inmates include guerrillas of leftist and Muslim anti-Israeli groups, villagers who refused to pay taxes to the militia, villagers who refused to allow their sons to be conscripted into the SLA and Lebanese army soldiers and police.

No humanitarian agency has been allowed into Khiam, a former French mandate non chief Bernard Pfeffer has said. The ICRC is still negotiating with Israel to enter Khiam to check conditions.

Archaeologist defends Alexander claim, says just wait and see

CAIRO (AFP) — A Greek archaeologist has told experts she found the entrance to Alexander the Great's burial chamber but had to stop excavating until March when the water will be cleared, she said.

At the same site, she found Greek inscriptions, including one that was 1.6 metres long and dating from the "era of Ptolemy I and mentioning the names of Alexander and Ammon-Ra."

Several of the two dozen experts who will travel to the site in the next week challenged her work: "Ms. Souvatzis found six only Greek letters in Alexander's name as the others were missing."

A Greek scientific mission said Alexander's name was not found in the inscription, which were from the much later, Roman period rather than the Hellenistic era.

The inscription which Ms. Souvatzis is focusing on dates from 290-284 B.C. and refers to the burial of a "a body lighter than a shield" which she says proves that Alexander was mummified after his death in Babylon in 323 B.C.

The name of Emperor Trajan, who lived more than 100 years after Christ, is marked there in smaller letters and refers to his visit, she said.

But she said it was only a second inscription referring to offerings from Nerva and Trajan to Zeus which are actually Roman, from 106-115 A.D.

Ms. Souvatzis said this second inscription indicated Alexander was poisoned.

Several experts challenged this.

"I am absolutely not convinced. That has nothing to do with Alexander," Mustafa Al Abadi, a professor of Epigraphy, told AFP.

"It is in fact one and the same inscription that she has separated," he added. But he said it was an "interesting discovery, perhaps a temple with some tombs."

Ms. Souvatzis's husband helped her to decipher the transcribed inscriptions, because she had forgotten her glasses.

Somalis mistook murdered Italian in 'banana war'

MOGADISHU (R) — An Italian journalist murdered by Somali gunmen was mistaken by his killers for a businessman locked in a feud between rival banana exporting companies, Somalis said on Friday.

Marcello Palmisano, 55, a cameraman with RAI Italian public television, was hatched as he drove in a convoy of cars belonging to a local exporter called Soumalfut when the gunmen struck on Thursday.

Accompanying him was reporter Carmen Lasorella, who sustained light burns to her foot after the car they were in caught fire, but she managed to flee, leaving Palmisano in a pool of blood.

Somali residents of Mogadishu say Soumalfut and the rival Sombana company are waging a "banana war" for control of the lucrative fruit export trade from the anarchic country.

It was not clear who the Italian businessman was that the gunmen intended to kill.

Witnesses said the attack started when the gunmen drove their cars in front of the Soumalfut convoy in a street close to the U.N.-controlled airport.

Two gunmen got out and opened fire on Palmisano. The car, hit by a rifle grenade, caught fire. A battlewagon mounted with a machinegun and known as a "technical" was destroyed and two Somali guards were killed, witnesses said.

Ms. Lasorella escaped and hid behind a small wall, but Somali robbers her and roughed her up before taking her to a post of the European Committee for Agricultural Training in Mogadishu.

Foreign journalists in Mogadishu said Palmisano, a father of two, and Ms. Lasorella were on their first trip to Somalia.

They arrived on Thursday to cover the withdrawal of United Nations troops from the failed two-year mission to bring peace and government to Somalia, an operation being covered by forces from Italy, the United States and four other nations.

Somali witnesses said they believed the attack on the two vehicles hired by Soumalfut was in revenge for the killing of at least three Somalis in a firefight near the seaport last week in a clash between Soumalfut and Sombana gunmen.

Marines from the United States and Italy are expected to land at the U.N. base, comprised of the airport and seaport, in the final stages of the evacuation late this month or early in March.

Attack helicopters and AC-130 "Spectre" gunship planes will cover the ground forces in case of attack by the Somalis — who on Thursday marched in the streets to protest against the arrival of U.S. forces.

Palmisano was the third RAI journalist to be killed in Mogadishu.

Reporter Iaria Alpi and cameraman Milan Hrovatin were killed by Somali gunmen on March 20 last year outside the Italian embassy.

Five other foreign journalists, three from Reuters, have been killed in Mogadishu since December 1992.

The banana industry has played a colourful but volatile role in Somalia's history.

Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini first boosted fruit exports to his own country when Somalia was under Rome's colonial rule.

Italians continued to have a great deal of influence over the business after independence and through the brutal rule of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre until he was overthrown in January 1991.

Somalia then spiralled into chaos. Late last year the U.S. fruit company Dole tried to get involved in the industry and despite being given sup-

port by the United Nations and United States, existing competitors resisted.

Italy's Foreign Ministry on Friday advised its voluntary aid organisations in Somalia to withdraw their workers following the murder of the Italian television cameraman.

Foreign ministry spokesman Maurizio Moreno told state television that some 50 Italian aid workers in Somalia "were being exposed to unacceptable risks."

Kofi Annan, U.N. under secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, ended a three-day farewell visit to Mogadishu on Friday, saying much of what the United Nations had achieved in its two-year mission to Somalia remained vulnerable to conflict.

"The future of the country is still in the balance," he told reporters, making another of a stream of U.N. appeals to Somali leaders to reconcile and establish a broad-based government.

"UNOSOM (U.N. operation in Somalia) played a tango without a partner in Somalia," Mr. Annan said before flying to Nairobi.

He said he hoped the pull-out would be a wake-up call to the leaders and people of Somalia.

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PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 One Le Michler Gagne
18:00 Association Ben Falcous
19:00 News in French
19:30 Fa Uti Pas Rovers
20:00 You Be Your Life
20:00 Quantum Leap
21:15 News in English
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Three Men and a Cradle"
23:59 And the Son Will Tell

PRAYER TIMES
05:00 Fajr
06:18 (Sunrise) Doha
11:59 Dhuhr
14:54 'Asr
17:21 Maghreb
18:40 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatelah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Catholic Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Association Tel.

623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543
American Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Warm and sunny weather conditions will prevail with winds southerly to easterly. In Aqaba winds will be northerly to easterly and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 2 / 16
Aqaba 7 / 22
Djorcas 6 / 16
Jordan Valley 6 / 21
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 14, Aqaba 21 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALANDAR

readings: Amman 3 per cent. Aqaba 6 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Dr. Jassir Jassir 847351
Dr. Walid Al Murr 875485
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637065
Nairolo pharmacy 634772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 646332

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hili 279773
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 864399
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 625101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 880100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Akilch Maternity, J. Ann 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisan 6641714
Shmeisan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983333
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983333
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983333
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)983333
IBRD:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)275555
Don Al Nakas Hospital (02)275555
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:15 Aqaba (RJ)
07:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:15 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:40 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 London (RJ)
13:45 Vienna (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:45 Larnaca (RJ)
16:45 Jeddah (RJ)
17:45 Damascus, Paris (RJ)
18:15 London (RJ)
18:45 Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:15 Vienna (OS)
19:15 Beirut (ME)
20:00 Larnaca (CY)
22:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:59 Amsterdam (KL)
02:35 London (BA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:25 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
07:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:15 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:40 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 London (RJ)
13:45 Vienna (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:45 Larnaca (RJ)
16:45 Jeddah (RJ)
17:45 Damascus, Paris (RJ)
18:15 London (RJ)
18:45 Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:15 Vienna (OS)
19:15 Beirut (ME)
20:00 Larnaca (CY)
22:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:59 Amsterdam (KL)
02:35 London (BA)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fill per kg.
Apple 700 / 400
Banana 100 / 80
Banana (Mukammal) 100 / 80
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 220 / 80
Cauliflower 100 / 80
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 120 / 80
Eggplant 100 / 80
Garlic 200 / 80
Grape 200 / 80
Lemon 200 / 80
Marrow (large) 170 / 80
Marrow (small) 270 / 80
Onion (green) 340 / 80
Onion (dry) 320 / 80
Orange 400 / 80
Pepper (hot) 1200 / 80
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 80
Potato 300 / 80
Radish 150 / 80
Spinach 100 / 80
Spring Beans 1000 / 80
Tomato 200 / 80

RUJAH RAILWAY TRAIN
02:40 Athens (OA)
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

PLAY (in Arabic) entitled "Normalisation" by Nabil Cultural Centre at 9:00
PLAY (in Arabic) entitled "Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00

EXHIBITION
Exhibition of paintings u "Roots" by Fatima Rabon
"Young America" exhibit
Americans of all ages at Bank Complex Gallery.
Book exhibition at the Basha at Darat Al Funun
tion entitled "Phase II-Dorian artist Ghada Dahdaleh
Arab artists.
Educational works depicting French Cultural Centre.
Exhibition of works by International Hotel in Aq

Home
Over 17,000 by Zakat Fu
AMMAN (Petra) — The Zakat (slms) Fund last year gave JD 125,000 in the form of emergency assistance to needy families throughout Jordan, according to the fund's Director General, Abdullah Rashid Al Shobaki.
He said the above amount was used to pay for education fees of poor students, and cover medical treatment expenses and surgeries performed on poor people who could not afford to pay; those fees, Mr. Shobaki noted that the fund last year collected JD 1 million in alms from donors, rich families and individuals.
The amount was spent on monthly salaries to 4,800 families all over the country. Each of these families received a monthly aid ranging between JD 10 and JD 30, he said. However, he added, on the occasion of Ramadan, the fund decided to give each beneficiary family an extra amount of JD 10.
Mr. Shobaki said the zakat committees, which total 150 altogether, collected over JD 2 million last year, an amount

NEWS I
King concedes the
AMMAN (Petra) — His delegated Irbid Governor F. condolences to the Khawass, Mohammad Al Haj Abdul member of the Lower House away Thursday. Speaker and have also expressed sadness former colleague from the Lower House review
AMMAN (Petra) — The Saturday reviews the endorsement of the Upper House of Parliament revised law on government. The House will refer to a revised law on insurance code the Lower House. A Lower of studying the Royal Jordanian meet today under the chair member Munir Sobar to discuss government's answers to a some deputies about issues House will also listen to the number of proposals made services offered to the public the Financial Committee's reports for the years 1992-1993.
JNRCS assembly ho
AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan JNRCS) General Assembly here today Saturday to discuss National Red Crescent Society's financial and reports. Various Red Crescent society
Media campaign ab
AMMAN (Petra) — Early periodic examination is the cancer. This is the theme of Jordanian Anti-Cancer Society cultural committee activities slogans like: "Cancer is curable." "Smoking is one of lung cancer." "Breastfeeding breast cancer." "Natural focus: Overexposure to sun rays causes skin cancer."
Jordan, Lebanon a
AMMAN (Petra) — With stopped collecting JD 80 fees refrigerator trucks crossing Lebanon, which used to collect from each Jordanian truck and Lebanese territory. The decision of a Cabinet decision applies to any other countries Jordanian government's inin

WHAT'S C
The following listings are com and the daily Arabic press, the listed time and place with

PLA
Play (in Arabic) entitled "Normalisation" by Nabil Cultural Centre at 9:00
Play (in Arabic) entitled "Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00

EXHIBI
Exhibition of paintings u "Roots" by Fatima Rabon
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Americans of all ages at Bank Complex Gallery.
Book exhibition at the Basha at Darat Al Funun
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Arab artists.
Educational works depicting French Cultural Centre.
Exhibition of works by International Hotel in Aq

The informant walked into the American embassy in Islamabad last week and provided information that led to Mr. Yousef's capture.

Subcommandante Marcos' identity revealed Mexico president orders arrest of Chiapas rebel leader, others

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the arrest of Subcommandante Marcos and other leaders of last year's Indian rebellion Thursday, a day after federal agents uncovered what he called major weapons caches and plans for "new and greater acts of violence" across Mexico.

The surprise announcement marked a complete turnaround from the government's attempts to appease the guerrillas and persuade them to lay down their arms by promising to help the poor and clean up the country's elections.

The insurrection embarrassed the government on the very day that Mexico, Canada and the United States launched the North American Free Trade Agreement, and persistent doubts among investors about the government's ability to end the rebellion contributed to Mexico's current economic crisis.

In a surprise address on nationwide TV, Mr. Zedillo said Federal Judicial Police Wednesday discovered large, clandestine arsenals kept by the Zapatista National Liberation Army rebels in Mexico city and the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

The caches included high-powered weapons such as hand grenades, mortar rounds and explosives, he said.

Federal agents also uncovered a conspiracy for widespread violence by the rebels, Mr. Zedillo said.

Mr. Zedillo said the army will help Federal Judicial Police make the arrests. He also ordered the army to increase patrols and help maintain order in the southern state of Chiapas, where the warrants were issued and where the Indian rebellion erupted on Jan. 1, 1994.

At last 145 people were killed in last year's uprising until a ceasefire was called after 12 days. Several attempts at negotiating peace with the rebels have floundered, but the ceasefire has remained in effect.

Attorney General Jose Antonio Lozano Gracias said one rebel chief was arrested Thursday in Mexico City, and seven people accused of conspiring with the rebels were arrested in Veracruz. The 13 arrest warrants were issued in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the Chiapas state capital.

Under the ceasefire, the government hadn't actively sought to capture Marcos, who attended peace talks with Interior Minister Esteban Moctezuma as recently as Jan. 15. Details of the talks, held near the guerrillas' stronghold in the Lacandon jungle, weren't released.

Mr. Zedillo said the Zapatistas had rejected a number of attempts to reach a peace accord by his administration — some even before he took office Dec. 1.

While the government as striving to negotiate peace, the Zapatistas "were preparing new and greater acts of violence, not only in Chiapas, but in other places in the country," Mr. Zedillo said.

The Zapatistas launched their New Year's rebellion to demand better living conditions and respect for human rights for Maya-descended Indians in Chiapas and for poor Mexicans nationwide.

But Mr. Zedillo called them the leftovers "of a guerrilla group formed in 1969 in another state called the National Liberation Forces, which advocated seizing power through armed force."

National Liberation, a leftist guerrilla group, was active in the northern state of Nuevo Leon and in southern Guerrero state at the time, but was crushed by the army.

Mr. Zedillo said Marcos' real name is Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, but gave no other information about him.

The enigmatic, green-eyed rebel leader had captured the nation's imagination with his articulate defence of the rebels' cause. He was the subject of intense speculation over his real identity.

The Mexican News Agency, Notimex, said he is from Tampico, in northeastern Tamaulipas state, the son of a well-off family. His father,

Alfonso Guillen, is a businessman.

Notimex, citing family sources who insisted on anonymity, described him as being in his early 30s and said he had studied communications in Jesuit-run schools.

Mr. Zedillo identified the other leaders only as Fernando Yaffez, Alias Subcommandante German; Jorge Javier Eborreaga Berdegue, Alias Subcommandante Vicente; Jorge Santiago Santiago, Alias Subcommandante Hernandez; Alias Subcommandante Sofia or Gabriela. Ms. Fernandez Hernandez was the one arrested in Mexico City, the attorney general said.

No background on any of the rebel leaders name was immediately available.

The president announced he would call a special session of Congress on the conflict in Chiapas. He said he was submitting legislation to grant amnesty to Zapatistas who surrendered their weapons and joined the nation's political mainstream.

Mr. Zedillo had welcomed a proposal Jan. 31 by the rebels to turn their movement into a national political party. But the rebels later announced they would not disarm.

All this "shows that far from preparing for a dialogue and negotiation, (the rebel) strategy was to gain time to arm and extend themselves to perpetrate more acts of violence," Mr. Zedillo said.

Austria joins NATO partnership plan

BRUSSELS (R) — Austria became the 25th country to sign up for NATO's partnership for peace, plan Friday, declaring the move was a vital step in building peace and stability in Europe.

"We see the partnership for peace programme as an imaginative and significant response by the Atlantic alliance to the dramatic changes in our common international environment," Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock said as he signed the agreement.

But he made it clear that Austria would remain neutral, and ducked the question of future membership of the organisation.

"We intend to focus our activities primarily on the areas of peace keeping, search and rescue and humanitarian operations," Mr. Mock said.

"By joining the Partnership for Peace, Austria becomes a partner of NATO and NATO-member countries with which we have always shared the common values of freedom and democracy, rule of law and market economy," Mr. Mock said.

"What counts for the future is European solidarity and European peace."

Simpson jurors see most gory pictures yet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson averted his eyes and a prosecutor warned the victim's relatives, "You don't want to look," as the jury saw the most gruesome photos of the bodies yet on a 7-foot (2-metre), full-colour screen.

The photos of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were the backdrop as the first police officer on the scene early on June 13 took the stand Thursday and offered some new details that the defence may seize upon to cast doubt on the estimated time of the murders at Ms. Simpson's condominium.

Among those details: A container of ice cream was found melting in the kitchen, and candles were burning in Ms. Simpson's bathroom and the tub was full, as if she had been planning a candlelit bath.

But under prosecution questioning designed to anticipate another Simpson line of defence, Officer Robert Riske stressed that he never stepped in the blood, that he warned others not to tread on it and that he didn't touch any evidence.

He also described finding bloody footprints, as well as a knit cap and — perhaps most significant — a single bloody



A file photo dated February 1945 showing soldiers and rescue team workers piling up the bodies after an allied bombing raid on the city of Dresden, Germany will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the raid that took place in the night of Feb. 13 and 14, 1945. Estimates of the casualties range from 35,000 to 135,000 (AFP PHOTO)

Dresden to mark bombing anniversary

DRESDEN, Germany (AFP) — British bombers flattened this eastern German city in a single night as the end of World War II neared, and the raid is still a matter of controversy 50 years later.

The ruins of the Church of Our Lady are a stark reminder of the death and destruction of Feb. 13, 1945, with between 25,000 and 35,000 people killed.

President Roman Herzog of Germany and the Duke of Kent from Britain and attending memorial ceremonies here. Also attending is the bishop of Coventry, the English city which was 80 per cent destroyed in German air attacks in November 1940.

There were as many casualties in other air raids elsewhere in Germany, but Dresden remains symbolic of the German people's suffering. Local university historian Reiner Marcowitz explained: "Dresden is a case apart because the whole city was razed in one go, there was no military reason for the operation, and the end of the war was close."

For the allies, the mission was a bid to demoralise the populace in order to hasten the end of the war. "The defeat of Germany was no longer in doubt, but there

was still terrible fighting," Mr. Marcowitz said. "The idea was to cut it short and so save the lives of troops."

The same thinking lay behind the use of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where 180,000 Japanese were killed.

"The Allies did not know the war would end three months later, they were still expecting lots of drawn out fighting on German soil," said Reiner Pommmerin, another university lecturer here.

The British and Americans additionally did not want to be seen lagging behind the Soviets, who had just mounted a major offensive against the Nazis in the east and were no more than 120 kilometres (74 miles) from Dresden.

But the raid did not have the desired effect of making residents rise up against the Nazi regime. Instead, they just stuck a bit more doggedly to the daily challenge of surviving.

The morning after, Dresden was like a scene from the Apocalypse. The historic city centre, a jewel of baroque architecture, was nothing but smoking ruins. Charred bodies littered the streets, some of them clinging helplessly to the fountains.

They had been trapped in a massive fireball several kilometres across, unleashed by an armada of more than 750 Lancaster bombers in two strikes at 11.03 p.m. and 1.23 a.m. At midday, 310 American bombers took it in turns to hit other districts.

"Those who did not leave their cellars died burnt or suffocated, those who left too late died in the streets in the intense heat," remembers Goetz Bergander, 67, now a historian, who lived through the bombardment.

Dresden's population of 700,000 had been swollen at the time by an influx of refugees fleeing the Soviet advance. It has never been clear how many there were. That gave rise in later years during Communist rule in East Germany to claims that the death toll had been between 200,000 and 400,000. It was a handy stick with which to beat the British and Americans during the cold war, while overlooking Soviet atrocities.

The generally accepted figure of 25,000 to 35,000 is based on documentation historians were able to study after the fall of communism, including funeral parlour registers, and the number of bodies still being unearthed in the ruins into the 1950s.

Quayle drops out of presidential race

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle stunned the U.S. political world by dropping out of the race for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, saying he did not want to disrupt his family.

"We were convinced that a winning campaign could have been accomplished and the necessary funds could have been raised," Mr. Quayle, 48, said in a four-paragraph written statement issued from the Indianapolis office where his campaign was being organised.

But he said he and his wife Marilyn decided to "put our family first and to forego the disruption to our lives that a third straight national campaign would create. We have found much work and happiness back home in Indiana."

Despite his reference to finances, others said Mr. Quayle, who served one term as vice president under George Bush, wanted to avoid the struggle of raising the millions of dollars needed to compete.

Mr. Quayle said he made his decision late Wednesday

night after consulting with his family.

"Marilyn and I are deeply grateful to the many friends across the country who have offered their encouragement and support," he said. "We are truly blessed to have been held in the prayers of so many."

"I will continue the fight to return this nation to the values on which it was founded," he said.

His departure removed a clearly conservative choice from the field of potential Republican contenders. A recent CNN-USA Today poll had shown Mr. Quayle running second behind Senator Robert Dole of Kansas among the potential candidates.

The move surprised nearly everyone, including Mr. Bush, who praised Mr. Quayle.

Adviser Mark Goodin said health concerns were not an issue for Mr. Quayle, who entered hospitals twice in recent months for blood clots on his lungs and an operation to remove a growth from his appendix. Those ailments put

him behind his rivals in the key tasks of campaign organising and fund-raising.

"He is just turned off at the prospect of how much money he will have to raise to seek the nomination," Mr. Goodin said.

Activist David Keane, head of the American Conservative Union, said Mr. Quayle was in a financial dilemma. "In order to run, you have to prove you can win," said Mr. Keane, who estimated it would take some \$30 million to compete for the nomination.

Separately, a Republican strategist close to Mr. Quayle said "the campaign wasn't going anywhere."

"He had not signed up any major Republican backers," the strategist said.

Mr. Quayle — who as vice president was the object of jokes depicting him as an intellectual lightweight, ridicule his supporters denounced as unfair — was the fourth major Bush administration figure to opt out of the race to challenge President Bill Clinton, the near-certain Democratic nominee.

Second mistrial for woman who castrated husband

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial after a second jury failed to reach a verdict against a woman who cut off her husband's testicles with scissors. The jury deadlocked 7.5 in favour of acquitting Aurelia Macias, who attacked her husband of 17 years, Jaime Macias, in 1992. They have since reconciled. Prosecutors said they will decide by Feb. 28 whether to retry her. Mrs. Macias said she'd suffered years of physical, mental and sexual abuse. She testified in her first trial that she cut off her husband's testicles because he was about to rape her and she feared for her life. Prosecutors claimed she attacked her sleeping husband in a jealous rage because he had danced with another woman earlier that night. In her first trial, she was acquitted of mayhem and assault, but the jury deadlocked on battery. Over her husband's objections, prosecutors decided to retry her on the lesser charge. Prosecutors accused her of claiming she was a battered wife because it worked for Lorena Bobbitt, an Ecuadorian-born woman who cut off her husband's penis in 1993 and was acquitted by reason of temporary insanity. Unlike the Bobbitt case, doctors were unable to surgically reattach Macias' parts, found in the couple's bed by their 17-year-old son.

Baker promises success with potency bread

MOSCOW (R) — Biologist Igor Kuseltan says he knows from experience that his bread helps make men more potent. He has tried it himself. "It definitely helps. I cannot say that you feel a change immediately, but after 10 or 11 days you feel the effect," the 74-year-old Russian said Thursday. "When a man's sexual energy starts to fade, a change in diet often helps." The bread, baked to a special recipe that includes wheat germ, low-fat milk powder, sugar and butter, was presented to journalists and Moscow shopowners Thursday. The small, oval loaves smell slightly sweet, but there is little to distinguish them from ordinary brown bread. "We keep the germ of the grain in the bread," said Mr. Kuseltan, who looks 20 years younger than he is. He sports a well-trimmed goatee, beard and wears a top-quality fur hat against the cold. "The germ is rich in Vitamin E, which increases sexual energy in human beings," Mr. Kuseltan said he first hit on the idea of special breads in 1972 when he was conducting research at Moscow's Academy of Medical Sciences. Female laboratory assistants noticed that mice and rats fed on a "full-ration diet" including wheat germ and powdered milk had sleek fur and bright eyes, and some of the workers said they wanted to try the formula themselves. To help them, Mr. Kuseltan developed a recipe for oat-wheat bread, but, due to Soviet-era restrictions on private business, never started baking it. "In those days scientists could only do research," he said, shrugging. It took 20 years to put the bread into production and Mr. Kuseltan had to set up his own company, Bioproduct, to construct the single-storey building that houses two walk-in ovens in a grimy residential estate in southern Moscow. The firm now produces one tonne of bread — 4,000 loaves — and sells them in local shops.

Canadian male conference flops in Canada

TORONTO (R) — Canada's first major international men's conference flopped when only five people turned up and the deflated organiser left without paying the bill, the Canadian Press news agency reported. "It's a grave embarrassment," sighed one of the participants, David Shackleton, slumped in a chair in a conference room full of empty tables prepared for 200 people. The keynote speaker, Hans Lehmann, had travelled from Geneva expecting to address crowds of red-blooded men at the International Men's Day Convention. More than 100 hotel rooms had been set aside, meeting rooms booked and press releases and speeches prepared. The professor from Kansas City, who organised the event, Tom Oaster, left without paying the bill.



A Colombian man uses a torch to cut steel support rods in a concrete wall as rescue workers search for victims of possible survivors in the wreckage of a building that collapsed when an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale hit Pereira and the surrounding region. The death toll now stands at 38 and is expected to climb (AFP photo)

Colombia quake toll expected to rise

PEREIRA, Colombia (AP) — Tragedy and hope emerged side-by-side from the rubble of an apartment building destroyed a day earlier in an earthquake.

Carmen Zamorano spent 22 hours trapped in the flattened building, waiting for her rescuers. They were close enough to touch her, squeeze her hand and given her a shot for the pain.

Then she died. "I have painful news for the nation," announced a reporter Thursday for a national radio station which had tracked efforts to rescue the 22-year-old maid. "Carmen Zamorano is gone."

She was the 38th known fatality from the quake that hit Colombia Wednesday afternoon, and officials said the death toll was likely to rise.

More than a dozen bodies may be buried in the five-story apartment building where Miss Zamorano died.

Hours after Miss Zamorano died, her employer, who had been trapped near her, was pulled from the wreckage. "God gave me his hand."

Thank God. Thank God," moaned Mercedes Coronado as she was loaded onto an ambulance.

The quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6.5, was centred about 280 kilometres west of Bogotá, or 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Pereira, the hardest hit city.

Authorities said 26 people were confirmed dead in Pereira, located in Colombia's coffee-growing region 160 kilometres (100 miles) west of Bogotá, another 12 people were killed in other parts of western Colombia. More than 230 people were injured, the National Disaster Office said.

President Ernesto Samper arrived in Pereira Thursday with other senior officials to examine rescue operations and help the region recover from the disaster.

Rescuers using search dogs dug through collapsed buildings, looking for survivors. For some, the desperate effort was too late.

As Red Cross workers tried to reach Miss Zamorano and Mrs. Coronado, children who apparently survived the

earthquake elsewhere in the building were given up for dead.

"We heard children's voices in another part of the building early on in the rescue, but haven't heard any signs of life from there for many hours," said Maj. Ramon Sosa, fire chief of this city of 700,000.

After dawn Thursday, there wasn't anyone digging in the area where the voices were heard. All efforts were focused on where the living were known to be buried.

Rescuers put clothing of those buried, if it was available, in front of the noses of the search dogs to enable them to help find the victims.

Searchers found Mr. Zamorano hours before she died. Reaching through the rubble, they gave her an anesthetic by injection and an IV solution and pumped in oxygen by hoses.

"We were all very sad to lose her at the last minute," said firefighter German Arango, sitting exhausted with a dozen other firemen in the shade of a tree. "But we saved the other woman which raised everyone's spirits."

Seoul urges North to accept its reactors

SEOUL (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Kim Deok said Friday that South Korea would not provide financial support to implement a landmark agreement overhauling North Korea's nuclear programme if the North refused to accept its model of reactor.

"If North Korea doesn't want South Korean-model reactors, we will have to refuse to pay our share of financial support for the construction of light-water reactors (in the North)," Mr. Kim told senior local journalists in Seoul.

Washington in Geneva last October.

To resolve a crisis over Pyongyang's suspected development of nuclear arms, Washington pledged to replace North Korea's graphite nuclear reactors with light-water models from which weapons-grade plutonium is harder to extract.

Pyongyang agreed in Geneva to freeze its nuclear programme in return for the new reactors and steps toward diplomatic recognition by the United States.

Washington has said the reactors must be of the type used in South Korea as Seoul has agreed to bear the brunt of the cost. North Korea has refused to accept the provision despite months of discussions.

"For a smooth construction of light-water reactors, our people, materials and information must be brought to the North," Mr. Kim said.

He said the South would seek to sign an agreement with the North on nuclear energy cooperation before the construction.

Analysts in South Korea say the North is against South Korean reactors because it would be obliged to open its doors to hundreds of South Korean technicians and engineers.

Seoul officials have argued that supplying the North with its reactors would help the process of integration once Korean unification — a target both governments are seeking — is achieved.

World News

Second military trial for woman who castrated husband

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge declared a woman who castrated her husband a second time in a military trial. The woman, who was charged with the crime in 1992, was found guilty of the crime. The judge said she was a "cold-blooded killer" and that she had "planned the crime for a long time." The woman was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The judge said she was a "cold-blooded killer" and that she had "planned the crime for a long time." The woman was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Baker promises success with potency bread

MOSCOW (R) — Igor Kusnetsov, a Russian inventor, has promised to bring a "potency bread" to market. He said the bread would help men with impotence. He said he had been working on the bread for several years. He said he had been working on the bread for several years. He said he had been working on the bread for several years.



In this picture released in Lima by the Peruvian government, President Alberto Fujimori (centre) watches as a wounded soldier is placed in a helicopter for evacuation. Mr. Fujimori was visiting a military staging area (AFP photo)

Fighting erupts in Bihac; Bosnia holds U.N. worker

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government troops fought to defend water supplies to the besieged town of Bihac Friday after weathering an earlier attack by Bosnian Serb forces in the embattled enclave, U.N. spokesman said. Sniper fire also crackled out in a western suburb of Sarajevo, which was jolted by the most serious violation of a ceasefire Thursday evening when Serb forces unleashed a brief mortar barrage. The arrest on spying charges of a Serb woman working for the United Nations relief mission also threatened to mar the truce, which has held through most of Bosnia since Jan. 1. In Zagreb, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said he wanted NATO troops to monitor Croatia's borders with Bosnia and Serbia when U.N. peacekeepers leave the country after March 31. Clashes flared in Bihac Friday morning 15 kilometres west of Bihac town and spread to Klokot village, which troops of the Muslim-led government attacked on Jan. 14, securing a well supplying Bihac town. "At the moment this attack threatens the retaking of the town water supply," U.N. spokesman Graham Day said. The clashes followed a day of heavy shelling and ground fighting Thursday between government troops and Bosnian Serbs, whom the U.N. accused of launching a "calculated and deliberate attack." Mr. Day was unable to say if Croatian or Bosnian Serbs were involved in Friday's combat. Serb troops have been fighting alongside Muslim rebels led by businessman Fikret Abdic in the enclave, where clashes have lasted for weeks despite the ceasefire. A Bosnian Serb mortar attack shook Sarajevo Thursday evening. The U.N. said a local commander had taken exception to government troops digging trenches in breach of ceasefire terms. Sarajevo has been under siege by Bosnian Serb forces since April 1992 after the Muslim-led government seceded from the former Yugoslav Federation. A ceasefire has been in effect since Jan. 1 in the hope of encouraging peace talks. A peace plan proposed by Britain, France, Russia, the United States and Germany envisages dividing Bosnia into two roughly equal parts but the Serbs, who hold about 70 per cent of the country, have spurned it. A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the mission was worried that the arrest of a Serb U.N. worker could hurt the relief effort in Sarajevo. Government police arrested Svetlana Boskovic, 29, Thursday and accused her of spying for the Serbs. A local U.N. driver arrested with her has been released. U.N. sources said it was possible the government wanted to use Ms. Boskovic to secure the release of a Muslim journalist kidnapped by Serb forces. "We are extremely concerned by the situation," said the UNHCR's Kris Janowski. French peacekeeping troops had taken the place of local U.N. drivers, supervisors and workers delivering food flown into the airport in an international airlift. Mr. Janowski said. Local staff daily have to cross the front lines and the UNHCR feared they risked being the targets of retaliation from Serbs angry at Ms. Boskovic's arrest, he said. Mr. Tudjman, who has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave Croatia, said NATO troops would be more efficient and their presence on the borders with Bosnia could prevent rebel, Krajina Serbs from launching attacks on neighbouring Bihac enclave. "We would really have no objections if NATO deployed along our international borders," he told a news conference in Zagreb. Mr. Tudjman has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave Croatia, claiming their presence only shored up the rebel Serb breakaway Krajina state encompassing one third of Croatia. The decision has prompted international fears of a renewed war with the Serbs and diplomatic pressure has so far failed to persuade Zagreb to change its mind. The UNHCR said Friday it was continuing its airlift of humanitarian aid into Sarajevo but that supplies would be stored at the airport and not transported into the city. "The airlift is continuing but food will not be brought into the city. It will be temporarily stored at the airport," said Mr. Janowski. The UNHCR had announced Thursday that, for security reasons, it was suspending its airlift of food and supplies into Sarajevo after Bosnian police detained two of its employees at a checkpoint. The agency feared that its local drivers transporting supplies from the airport to the city could be endangered at Bosnian Serb checkpoints as long as the two employees were being held. But Mr. Janowski said that "senior UNHCR management thought it (the airlift) was too important to stop," and later reconsidered their decision. He said Bosnian authorities had told the U.N. that one of the employees detained, a Croatian national, was released Friday.

Manila rules out armed response to Spratlys

MANILA (R) — The Philippines said Friday that China's occupation of a reef in the South China Sea claimed by Manila would not lead to conflict. "Aggression is not an option and I believe that at this point there is some agreement between us and the People's Republic of China," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said. The Philippines released pictures Thursday showing military-looking Chinese vessels and substantial structures built on reefs above Misaki in the Philippines as the Kalayaan (Freedom) Group. Even if the Philippines wanted to push China off Misaki reef, it has virtually no ability to project military power beyond its major islands. "It is not going to lead to any class because there is no capacity on this side to do anything about it," a Western military diplomat said. China, pushing aside Philippine President Fidel Ramos's complaint that Beijing is breaking international law, has claimed the structures were built to shelter its fishermen. Manila has little option but to take its complaints to its five partners in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and try to raise other international support. United States Ambassador John Negroponte called on China and the Philippines to solve the dispute peacefully. "We fully support the Manila Declaration of 1992 that calls on all parties to settle this issue through peaceful means and, meanwhile, to exercise restraint," he told reporters after meeting Mr. Romulo. The Manila Declaration urged the six nations which claim all or parts of the Spratlys' scattered isles and reefs — China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines — to settle the long-running dispute peacefully. The Spratly Islands are possibly rich in oil and minerals and have long been regarded as one of the most serious potential flashpoints in Asia. Efforts by Indonesia to mediate a settlement have failed to make much progress. Julius Caesar Parreno, an analyst at the Philippine Centre for Research and Communication, said he did not believe China's action would lead to aggression because it was in Beijing's interest to develop good relations with ASEAN, particularly with Vietnam joins the group this year. ASEAN groups Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines. Vietnam accused China Friday of causing instability by building structures on the disputed Spratly Islands. "The Chinese action... is a serious new event. Vietnam opposes every action of expanding encroachment, further complicating the situation in the Spratly archipelago, going counter to the trend of peace, stability and cooperative development in the region," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The Philippines released pictures Thursday showing Chinese vessels and substantial structures on a part of the Spratlys that is claimed by Manila. China said it was building new facilities on what it referred to as the Meijiiao to ensure the safety and lives of Chinese fishermen and their work in the area. The spokesman reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over the Spratlys and urged claimants to maintain the status quo pending a permanent solution through negotiations. "While trying to accelerate talks to find a basic and permanent solution, it is necessary to maintain stability on the basis of the status quo," he said. The concerned parties should control themselves, not conduct actions to further complicate the situation, and not use force or threaten to use force.

UNESCO: World should not help African dictators

PARIS (R) — A major U.N. conference Friday urged elected African leaders to go to the polls within two years and asked the international community to withhold aid from dictators. "Freedom is a basic issue and democracy an imperative in Africa," it declared. The call came at the end of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference in Paris of some 500 African government officials, private groups and international cooperation agencies. The "Audience Africa" conference did not give names but elected African leaders include Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha, Sudan's President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir and Gambia's Lieutenant Yaya Jammeh. Others in the same category are Sierra Leone's Captain Valentine Strasser, Ethiopia's President Meles Zenawi and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, although the last two have promised elections this year. "Audience Africa proposes that... African political leaders who have not been democratically elected should organise elections and submit themselves to popular vote within at the most two years of this recommendation," the conference closing draft document said. "Audience Africa request the international community to withhold all aid from dictatorial regimes," it added. The draft also warned overseas aid was going to be scarcer in the next century. "Africa will have to increasingly rely on its own resources," it said. The meeting called on industrialised countries to keep their United Nations pledge to commit 0.7 per cent of GDP to Third World aid for at least a decade. The document listed illiteracy, economic stagnation, corruption, and militarisation among Africa's "countless failures" since independence. But it said Africa should not be written off as the "lost continent" and could rapidly recover if it united, built democracy and if Africans gained enough self-confidence to take their fate into their own hands. "Africa is the continent with most resources. With competent and serious men, funds and know-how, it can rapidly catch up with parts of the world like Latin America and Asia," it said. The document called for a ruthless fight against corruption. It also called for a major effort on teaching, asking African governments to devote five per cent of their output to education by the end of the century. Africans should be guaranteed four years of uninterrupted studies, in their mother tongues if possible, and young graduates could be enrolled in "knowledge brigades" in a two-year national service to eradicate illiteracy. The document said African countries should join efforts and boost exchanges to develop science and technology which should focus on meeting basic needs — food production, health care, solar and other renewable energy sources. It said African states should devote 0.4 to 0.5 per cent of GDP to development research by the end of the century, and that researchers should gain access to the world's scientific and technological information highways. African researchers should be at least bilingual in order to benefit from efforts throughout the continent, and governments should study the ways of jointly protecting the environment and exploiting natural resources. The draft document said.

Ecuador leader travels to front; Peru announces new casualties

No progress reported at Brazilia talks

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuadorian and Peruvian army patrols clashed repeatedly in heavy fighting along their disputed jungle border, prompting Ecuador's president to fly to the front. President Sixto Duran Ballen Thursday visited staging areas for military operations and field hospitals where wounded were being treated. Peruvian warplanes attacked Coangos and Base Sur, two Ecuadorian border posts at the headwaters of Cenepa River, Ecuador's Joint Military Command said. During peace talks in Brazil, Ecuador proposed a "humanitarian truce" to allow each side to remove the rotting bodies of soldiers killed in recent days. Ecuadorian soldiers interviewed by Quito television stations said the stench from the bodies was inescapable around border posts that have come under Peruvian attack. Peru did not immediately respond to the truce offer. In Lima, Gen. Victor Malca said Peruvian troops were meeting fierce resistance in trying to take Tiwinza, one of three Ecuadorian military posts located in territory Peru claims as its own. He said Peruvian forces were fighting their way up a jungle-shrouded 1,000-foot (300-metre) hill where the post is situated, but Ecuadorian soldiers at the top were dug in and better positioned for firing on Peru's forces. The president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, said Thursday night 36 Peruvian soldiers have been killed and 60 wounded in two weeks of fighting. He said the country also lost two helicopters and a plane. The seven crew members were among those killed. He said he didn't have figures of Ecuador's losses but "by comparison, the number of their deaths is great." Gen. Malca told Peru's congress that more than 70 Peruvian soldiers were missing in action but said many may be alive and lost in the jungle. Ecuador said 11 of its soldiers have died and 28 have been wounded. Gen. Malca described the terrain in the disputed area as "treacherous" with dangerous ravines invisible because of the thick vegetation. He said torrential rains fall constantly and temperatures reach 104 degrees F (40 degrees C). The disputed border is located on the jungle-covered eastern slopes of the Andes, 220 miles (350 kilometres) southeast of Quito and 600 miles (1,000 kilometres) north of Lima, the Peruvian capital. Ecuador said Duran Ballen flew to the border to encourage Ecuadorian troops and explain efforts to obtain a ceasefire in peace talks with Peru in Brazil. Speaking to a cheering crowd after his return to Quito, Mr. Duran-Ballen said: "I repeat now what I told one of the young men who was at the front: 'We will not take one step back.'" It was the first trip by Mr. Duran-Ballen to the disputed border since fighting broke out Jan. 26. In Quito, a national Indian organisation called for the urgent intervention of the Organisation of American States and the United Nations to halt the fighting. "We regret that our brothers of the Shuar, Ashuar and Quechua indigenous nations are caught in the middle of the military attacks," said Luis Macas, president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador. He urged the Red Cross to provide help to Indian groups living close to the border. According to news reports, Peruvian warplanes have bombed three Indian villages near the conflict area this week, but no one has been reported hurt. Meanwhile, negotiators for both countries met for the third day in Brasilia, but no progress was reported. Representatives of the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States also were taking part. The four nations are the guarantors of a 1942 treaty that ended a war between the countries and gave Peru a huge swath of jungle territory also claimed by Ecuador. Ecuador declared the treaty null and void in 1960 before the last 48 miles (77 kilometres) of the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometre) border were marked. In a separate development, leftist guerrillas, taking advantage of Peru's preoccupation with the border conflict with Ecuador seized a town in Peru's northern Andes, authorities said Thursday. Provincial Mayor Oscar Ahumada said police had been called away to protect Peru's main oil pipeline when a column of 25 to 30 members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement attacked their post in Chontali Wednesday. One person was killed and the guerrillas took control of the district, authorities said. It was not clear if the town was still in guerrilla hands. Police in Jaen contacted by Reuters refused to comment on the incident. Mr. Ahumada told Radioprogramas Del Peru that the army had called police away from the district to take up positions defending the Nor Pucallpa Line from possible Ecuadorian attack. The pipeline carries crude from Amazon oil fields across the Andes to the coast. "We are losing one on the one hand and they're attacking us on the other," Mr. Ahumada told Radioprogramas Del Peru. "It's getting complicated. In a way, they are helping Ecuador." Chontali, some 43 miles (70 kilometres) from Ecuador, is in Jaen province some 450 miles (724 kilometres) north of Lima in highland Cajamarca Department.



An Ecuadorian soldier guards his jungle post at the Ecuadorian border with Peru at Soldado Mungo southeast of Quito (AFP photo)

Mandela makes pilgrimage to Robben island

ROBBEN ISLAND, South Africa (R) — President Nelson Mandela led hundreds of other ex-political detainees on an emotional pilgrimage on Friday to South Africa's Robben Island — a speck of rock that was his prison for 18 years. Mr. Mandela, 76, who Saturday marks the fifth anniversary of his release from 27 years in prison for his anti-apartheid struggle, flew to the island by helicopter for the reunion. He received a standing ovation from his fellow former detainees who had arrived earlier on a navy landing craft. The text of a plaque that will be unveiled by Mr. Mandela reads: "Embedded in these stones you will find the pain of our struggle. The sorry of losses and the foundation of our victory." Provincial Premier Tokyo Sexwale, who spent 13 years on the island and married his white lawyer days after his release in 1990, told Reuters on the beach: "It was freedom to come and work, to make roads and listen to the water. That was the only freedom we knew. We're trading back our footsteps. We have many of us left our youth and part of our souls on this island." Former prisoners hugged each other and exchanged memories, some painful and some humorous, as they pointed out landmarks such as a breakwater where they were forced to collect guano. "It's like a dream to me," said Anthony Gazi, who was released from the island in 1979. "We have gotten over it, we can laugh about it now," he said as he stepped ashore on the concrete pier of the island that was for thousands of South Africans the country's most notorious prison. Mr. Mandela was transferred from the sand and limestone island, nine miles out in Cape Town Bay, to a mainland prison in 1982. In the past five years he has risen from convict status to become the country's first black president, presiding over the demise of white minority rule. "Mainly the island is testimony to the triumph of the human spirit. It shows that men will do anything to men but that they will survive it too," said Aubrey Mokoape, a doctor who served six years on the island accused of promoting terrorism. The pilgrimage includes a visit to the limestone quarry where Mr. Mandela and thousands of other apartheid foes chipped rock. The quarry's fine dust and reflection of the harsh sunlight left the president with eye problems that resulted in recent operations. He also visited the island last year, touring the B-block cells where he and other African National Congress leaders were held separately. A number of the prisoners went to the island's stony beach, where they waded and collected stones. Many prisoners came to the island and left years later without having touched the sea. "We are doing this because we were never allowed to when we were here as prisoners," said former prisoner Peter Jacobs. A prison warden said conditions for inmates had improved greatly since the days when political prisoners were held on the island. "It seems to me they were not fairly treated. Their treatment was probably inhumane, but at that time it was allowed. Maybe that was the way they had to be treated."

Shuttle set to end historic mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Five astronauts and a cosmonaut finished work aboard the U.S. shuttle Discovery Friday and stowed gear for a Saturday trip home from an unprecedented rendezvous with Russia's Mir space station. The shuttle was scheduled to touch down in Florida at 6:51 a.m. est (11:51 GMT), eight days after it blasted off on a mission that brought spacecraft from the two nations together for the first time in almost 20 years. "We're at the end of what we consider to be a very successful mission," Commander Jim Wetherbee said from Discovery in a Friday news conference with reporters on the ground. The flight is the 67th for the shuttle fleet, the first of 1995 for NASA, and the first in which a woman has occupied the pilot's seat in the cockpit. Eileen Collins served as co-pilot of Discovery and now is in line for assignment as the world's first woman spacecraft commander. The highlight of the mission was a Monday close encounter with Mir that left the four-man, two-woman Discovery crew and the three Mir cosmonauts teary-eyed. Com. Wetherbee nudged Discovery within 37 feet (12 metres) of Mir, close enough for shuttle cosmonaut Vladimir Titov to make eye contact with friends inside the space station that was his home for 366 days in the late 1980s. Com. Wetherbee said a telephone call was the only thing he had shared with Alexander Viktorenko, Elena Kondakova and Valery Polyakov before Monday. "Suddenly, we met over the Pacific Ocean in the void and blackness of space, and we could wave and smile at them," he said. Discovery blazed the trail for shuttle Atlantis, which another crew of astronauts and cosmonauts will dock at Mir in June — the first such linkup since the July 1975 demonstration of orbital detente known as the Apollo-Soyuz test project. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) characterised the action-packed mission as one of the most demanding in the history of shuttle flights.



Picture taken from Sky TV showing astronauts Mike Foale (right) and Bernard Harris emerging from the airlock onboard the U.S. space shuttle Discovery for their historic space walk (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Ultimate win in peace

AMIDST ALL the concern about the dead-ended Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, the visit of a trio representing the European Union (EU) to Syria and Israel represents a window of opportunity that could move things forward between the two countries. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who headed the EU delegation, was unequivocal about Europe's faith and commitment to the peace process as a comprehensive phenomenon. "The peace process," Mr. Juppe declared in Damascus, "is irreversible and should go forward on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, full normalisation between Syria and Israel and the search for security arrangements approved by both parties."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara was no less emphatic about his country's commitment to pursue peace with Israel, something that he described as a strategic objective. "Syria," Mr. Sharara pointed out in no uncertain terms at a joint news conference with the European trio Wednesday, "is convinced that should Israel be serious about reaching a just and comprehensive peace and a genuine progress on the Syrian track, the matter wouldn't require more than a few months." This upbeat Syrian posture tallies with previous Syrian pronouncements that called for "full withdrawal in return for full peace." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also edged closer to meeting Syrian terms for peace when he declared Thursday that his government would entertain full withdrawal from the Syrian Heights with the exception of the high ridge closest to Israel.

Yet given the near mutiny within the Labour Party on the issue of withdrawal from the Syrian Heights and the Israeli consensus calling for holding a referendum before Israel would commit itself to complete relinquishment of the Heights, there appears to be many stiff obstacles on the path of the Syrian-Israeli front. No doubt Rabin of all people knows deep in his heart that there is no way to conclude a peace deal with Damascus short of full withdrawal from occupied Syrian lands. The international community also shares this assessment. Sooner or later the Israeli public opinion must be educated into accepting this inevitable conclusion. It would be most unfortunate to hold up the comprehensive nature of the peace process over an issue that can be better resolved by reciprocal security arrangements. The dangers of a lasting standoff on the Syrian-Israeli front are infinitely more complex than the possible dangers for Israel following a full withdrawal from Syrian territory.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily reflected on the current situation in the Middle East resulting from Israel's escalation of tension and its adamant stand with regard to Arab rights. It seems that it is an Israeli habit to escalate tension and step up repressive measures against the Palestinians whenever the Jewish state reaches a peace accord with an Arab party, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It was in the wake of the Camp David accord that Israel escalated its raids on Lebanon that led to the 1982 invasion of that country, he said. The writer recalled that after the Oslo accord with the Palestinian leadership, Israel stepped up its repressive measures against the Palestinians. After the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the Jewish state sealed the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in an unprecedented manner, he said. It seems that through this policy, Israel is trying to push the Arab parties to succumb to its conditions and terms and make peace with it, said the columnist. Never before had Israel's repression reached the present dimensions in the occupied Arab lands, and never before had the Israelis shown such obstinacy in their dealings with the Arabs, said the writer. He said that the peace deals with the Jewish state seem to have given the Israeli government further encouragement to pursue its atrocities against the Arab Nation.

AL RA'I daily discussed the Arab-Israeli-American meeting held in Tabaa, describing its results as vitally important to the future development of the region. The Tabaa conference is important since it paved the way for the Amman economic conference due later this year and secured pledges on the part of the participants to attend the conference and make it succeed, said the paper.

Jordanian Perspective

The end of a disturbing era

FEB. 9 will go down in the history of Jordan as the day when the Kingdom regained its full territorial rights with the completion of Israeli military withdrawal from the last inch of its land and when the proud Jordanian Armed Forces hoisted the Jordanian flag in the evacuated land.

The return of the land to Jordan was more than just symbolic. Indeed every grain of sand in those territories is dear to every Jordanian, but beyond that is the reality that the full restoration of Jordanian land to Jordanian sovereignty also ends a deeply disturbing era in our life and opens a new chapter.

In the new chapter, we Jordanians face an immense challenge — a challenge that is much more difficult to confront than bullets in the battlefield. It is a challenge of nation-building, away from the preoccupations of tension and conflict.

What Jordan has achieved along with regaining its territorial rights is a large measure of valuable goodwill of the world. Our record throughout recent history talks volumes of our commitment to peace and coexistence, and the courage of our leadership in making peace with Israel has taken us beyond the threshold of just friendly relations with every country in the world.

But it is not enough that the international community looks at Jordan with admiration and appreciation. That would only provide us with the impetus needed to launch national construction in the era of peace. We face the challenge of having to prove to the world that we are indeed worthy of respect and admiration also in the context of nation-building with all that it entails.

Given the limited natural resources of Jordan, we face the task of inviting foreign capital and resources into the country and that can be done only through bringing about

sweeping changes in the country. We have to be completely forward looking and strive to keep one step ahead in the fierce international race for capital. International goodwill can be measured in terms of politics, but when it comes to actual movement of capital and resources what counts is the investment climate and the incentives that we offer to potential investors. That indeed means changes to laws and regulations.

Of course, the government, guided by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has gone a considerable way in meeting the requirements of the peace era, but there is no escape from the feeling that something is amiss, perhaps in the pace of the required reform in the context of our bureaucracy.

His Majesty King Hussein told the government three weeks ago to do what is needed to bring about the changes that are inevitable if Jordan is to hope for realistically benefit from the dividends of peace. Obviously it also meant the elimination of old wood in our ministries and government departments. We do not know yet how far the government has already moved in this direction, but it seems to be obvious that the pace of the move has to be speedy if we are to catch up with the requirements of the day.

No doubt some of the decisions facing the government are painful and difficult, but then the very fact is that Jordan is entering a new era where many of the considerations and reasons that held up back in making sweeping changes should no longer be a factor.

Similarly, we also need to see quick changes in our legislation related to foreign capital and investments. Of course draft laws and amendments are on the table, but our executive and legislative authorities seem to be taking their

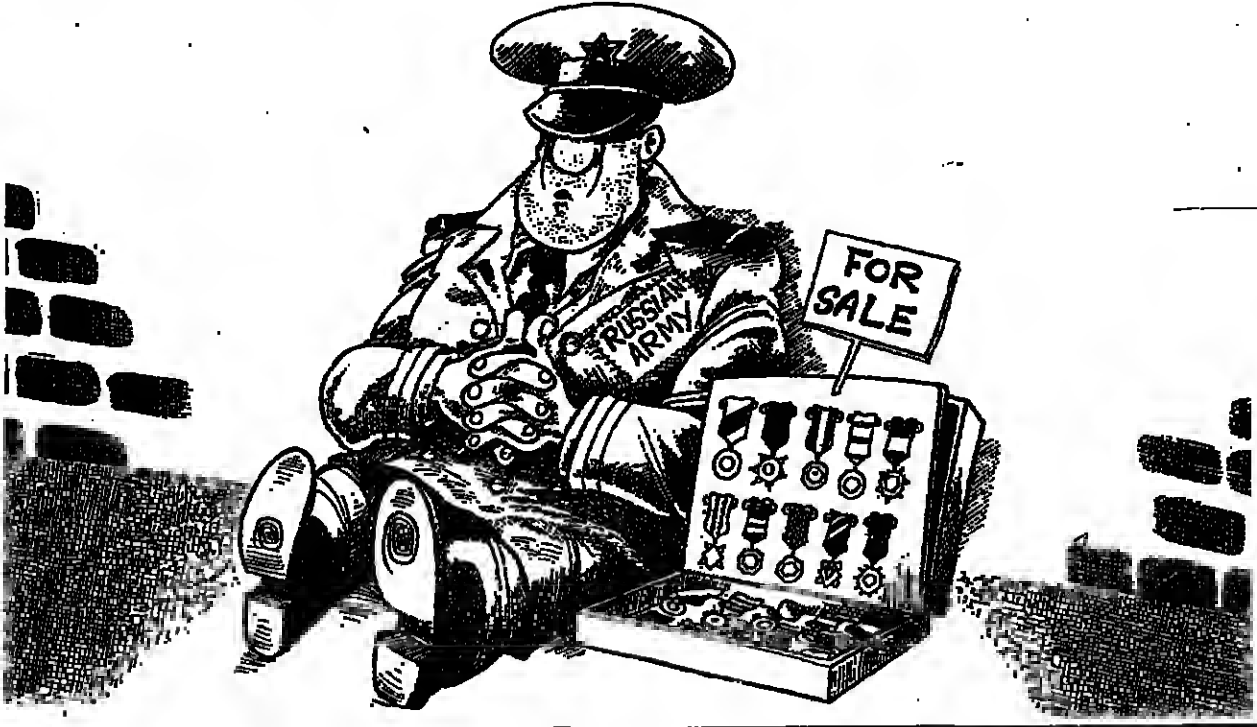
own time getting to them.

It is with deep apprehension that many of us are watching precious days being lost. Under the new world order or otherwise, regional conflicts are being settled so fast that the givens in the international capital market are changing since new opportunities are emerging in many parts of the world for the right investor with the right approach. For instance, can or will Jordan offer the same climate and incentive as Brazil? For South Africa or Vietnam for that matter? Whether we like it or not, these are realities in the scene today and it is our job to transform ourselves into a totally new economic phase where practicalities dictate our course.

We are not short of highly skilled young people to take the helm of our new course and steer us towards new horizons where our country could really reap the benefits of peace. Taking our own time in designating the right people is indeed inevitable, but those decisions have also to be compatible with the speed of international developments.

As U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown pointed out on Wednesday, Jordan has taken positive steps, but it needs to do more, whether in terms of revamping customs duties or in changing legislation that protects copyright and intellectual property rights. Well, these are decisions that the government has to adopt, while keeping in clear sight the very interest of the nation. The course that is right for Jordan need not necessarily be in the precise direction that the U.S. or any other country for that matter might want us to take. But we do have to listen to the international voices, whether from the East or West and weigh our options carefully, but quickly. Time is not on our side.

M. KAHIL



Violence will not end before its roots are addressed

By Elia Nasrallah

FAKHRI SALEH, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the Arab-Israeli summit held in Cairo was designed by the Arabs to put some kind of pressure on Israel to implement the Oslo and Cairo agreements but was for the Israelis a means to direct world attention to what the Jewish state calls Islamist terrorism. The writer said that the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, had sought to dedicate the meeting to fighting terrorism as a way to cover up for Israel's procrastinations over the implementation of deal with the Palestinian leadership. He said while the Arabs hoped such summit would result in further momentum for the peace process, the Israelis had totally different designs because they are determined to keep the occupation in place and to avoid the requirements of a just and durable peace.

Al Aswaq newspaper said that the way to end acts of violence and terrorism lies in tackling the causes of unrest and not the outcome. It is up to Israel and not the Arabs to rid the whole area of violence and acts of terrorism by ending its occupation and giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights rather than expecting from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to crack down on opponents of the peace deals with the Jewish state, said the daily. The statement that followed the Cairo Arab-Israeli summit emphasised the need for the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian deals and activating the peace process on the Lebanese and the Syrian tracks, said the paper. It said that what remains to be seen is whether Israel is ready and willing to meet the Arabs halfway and comply with the requirements of peace.

The so-called peace coalition meeting in Cairo in the past week was marked by pledges and promises on the Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, and Israeli parts, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour. The writer said, the contents of the final state-

ment that summed up the deliberations said that Israel has pledged to honour its commitments on Palestinian track, provided that the Palestinians deal with the so-called terrorism and on condition that Egypt forgets about its demands that Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The writer said that Israel is making it a condition on the Palestinian leaders to put an end to attacks on the Israelis so that the Jewish state can honour its promises. But it is clear that the Israeli government is bound to remain adamant and would fail to honour any of these commitments simply due to the Palestinian's determination to secure their freedom through resistance, which Israel

in Israel in the coming parliamentary elections. The writer said that the Likud has a different programme than that adopted by the Israeli Labour Party with regard to the question of peace and withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. He said that the Likud Party leader is now advocating a new policy, which entails the perpetuation of occupation of the West Bank and the Golan Heights and a continuous siege on Gaza Strip. Such ideas can never serve the cause of peace and make it incumbent on the Arabs to resort to their armed forces to ensure the freedom of their occupied territories, said the writer. Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Mr. Rabin, who leads his Labour Party, is in fact

wards a new Middle Eastern economy which entails lifting all the boycott regulations against Israel, said the writer. Israel expects its goods to flow freely into Jordan and beyond but is reluctant to open its markets for Arab goods, something which, the writer said, can by no means achieve any justice or establish stability and peace.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that Israel has placed three land mines in the way of peace and is challenging the Arabs and defying the whole world through its adamant stand. The writer said one of the mines is represented in the Jewish settlement programme, which is continuing against U.N. resolutions and in defiance of the world community. The second mine is represented in Israel's claim that the united city of Jerusalem remain its eternal capital, thus making a mockery of all U.N. resolutions which clearly state that the eastern part of the city is an occupied territory, he said. The third mine is represented in Israel's refusal to sign the NPT, thus posing a continuous threat to the Arab countries and world peace, according to the writer.

Mohammad Sobeih, a columnist in Al Dustour, called on the government to impose some sort of martial law to stem the greed of the merchants during the month of Ramadan. The writer said that the government can issue "defence orders" by which it can impose very severe punishments on manipulators and profiteers and save the limited-income groups and the needy from the endless rise in prices. The writer said official departments concerned with dealing with the situation can join hands with the private organisations and voluntary groups to put an end to this crime, and it is the duty of all citizens to report violations. The writer said that the Ministry of Supply should be empowered to authorise the police to arrest violators, close down stores and refer the greedy merchants to court.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

calls acts of terrorism.

Referring to a visit by Israeli Knesset members to Amman in the past week, Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that Jordanian parliamentarians should have taken part in a meeting with the Israeli parliamentarians not because they seek normalisation with the Jewish state but rather to make their views known and clear so that the visitors can carry them to the Israeli society. The writer said that the legislative authority in Jordan is a partner with the government in the decision-making process, especially in matters of national interest and its members ought to convey their views to the Israeli parliamentarians who present various political shades in the Israeli society. At least those parliament members who voted for the peace treaty with Israel, should have come forward to demand that the Israeli government comply with the requirements of just peace if security and stability are to be restored.

Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, called on the Arabs to beware the Israeli Likud Party, which could assume power

implementing programmes drawn up by the opposition Likud Party. This means that the two parties in Israel are two faces of the same coin and outbidding one another in imposing repressive measures on the Palestinian people, said Mr. Rimawi. Mr. Rabin's meeting with the Arab leaders in Cairo seems to have given him further self-confidence in his repressive policies because no sooner had he returned home than he declared stricter measures to be imposed on the Palestinian people, said the writer.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Jordanian and Palestinian people are deeply frustrated over the attitudes of Israel and the United States vis-a-vis the peace process. In return for very limited financial assistance to the Palestine National Authority (PNA), the Israelis and the Americans are gearing this authority towards imposing stricter measures to curb the attacks of those who oppose the peace with Israel, said the writer. For its part, Jordan has been promised a writing off of part of its foreign debts in exchange for serious commitments to working to-

Nightmare route to Middle East peace

The 'summit of hope' has left limited options for the Palestinians, Nabil Shaath tells Robert Fisk in Cairo

WHEN NABIL Shaath starts talking about the "third option" — the "nightmare option" as he calls it — you realise how close the Arab-Israeli "peace" has come to collapse. The third option is what he calls "total conflict," the collapse of the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, a return to the intifada, all-out war between Arab and Jew. "In the event of the third option," he says, "the odds are on a very bloody conflict that would not be like it was before — both parties would resort to brutalities... militant Islamists will have grounds for recruiting even more suicide bombers."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's closest adviser speaks eloquently, fearfully, of this option. His remaining optimism is almost as brave as his ability to fear the worst. Management consultant, publisher, philatelist, Mr. Shaath is having to contemplate failure ever more frequently. "The peace process is in deep trouble," he says, "and if it collapses, what will happen?" You realise then that the PLO has been talking about just such a possibility, that they have been staring into the darkness for the first time.

The Arab-Israeli "summit of hope" in Cairo has not fooled the Palestinians. No date was set for long-postponed Palestinian elections on the West Bank, no date agreed for further Israeli "redeployment," no promises made of an end to Jewish settlement on Arab land. Mr. Shaath's nimble mind has therefore been moving between the best and worst of all possible worlds, acknowledging failure and contemplating hope while exhorting those Palestinians who choose to oppose him.

"There are now three possible outcomes. The first is an alternative peace process in which we would go straight to the final settlement (talks on Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, the return of 1948 and 1967 Palestinian refugees), abandoning the interim settlement (elections and military withdrawals). So far, the interim process has failed. On both sides, it has failed, he says. "This interim stage was intended to improve the climate and build confidence between Palestinians and Israelis. But it is deepening the lack of confidence in the agreement... The Israelis have been unable to abandon their colonial attitude."

Sitting in his Cairo office Mr. Shaath has rarely been so forthright. "The interim stage has not changed the image of Palestinians in Israeli eyes nor vice-versa. We were not able to give them more security. From their point of view, another Beit Lid (suicide bombing)

will be the end of the road. From our point of view, more settlements are the end of the road. The idea of moving straight to permanent status discussions is gaining ground even in Israel."

The second option, Mr. Shaath says, is "to live with closure, this wall of separation, for a while until something changes the balance of power, which means the Israelis will clamp down a new closure (on the West Bank and Gaza) until a new process has been found. We would have to build our relationships to Egypt and Jordan and build an economy that is self-sufficient for a while. We are working on this very fast."

And then he comes back to option three "if number three ever takes place, it would eventually lead to a redefinition of the peace process. But it would meanwhile produce nothing for us and nothing for the Israelis. It would destroy both our goals of peace until it was replaced by something better. It would mean the collapse of the Palestinian authorities and resort to resistance again."

When asked how seriously he has contemplated this nightmare, he admits that he — though not Mr. Arafat's "cabinet" — has contemplated a mass resignation of the Palestinian authority, which would remain in Gaza but perhaps go underground. And he launches into a bitter attack on those Palestinians who, he believes, wish the peace process to fail.

"The intellectual opposition wants to make us look... incapable of meeting the Israelis at their own level of sophistication and connivance. Would they rather see a Bosnia or a Chechnya in Palestine? In the post-Soviet era, UN intervention has just stabilised the status quo in favour of the physically stronger party."

"Most of (the Islamic militants) Hamas's actions directed against the Israelis are in fact directed against us, to make us hit at them, to foment civil war or to make us look impotent to the Israelis."

Mr. Shaath is now demanding the "Egyptian model" for peace. "Egypt took every Jewish settler and every settlement out and this produced a real peace. And in the West Bank, every settler and every settlement has got to go."

Jerusalem can be a capital for two nations, he says. "If the United States recognises all Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that will end the peace process." He even talks about returning 1948 refugees to Galilee, inside Israel itself.

The Independent

The Islamic Revolution: The miracle of the century

In The Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate



THE ELEVENTH of February marks the anniversary of a Revolution that gained victory in 1979 and revived a new life for the Iranian people.

On Feb. 11, Islam was reborn, the genuine Islam that invites not only the Muslims, but also the followers of divine religions and the entire human beings, disregarding the race and the nationality, to peace, friendship and coexistence.

This Revolution brought good hopes for a society, whose exemplary security has created the most ideal climate for a social coexistence.

Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian and other religious minorities living in Iran enjoy equal social rights with Muslims. Iranian people are of Aryan origin, but they have mixed with other ethnic groups like Arabs, Kurds, Lurs and others in the course of history. Nevertheless, ethnic groups like Kurds, Lurs, Arabs, Baluchis and Turkmens speak their own language beside the country's official language (Persian), while preserving their cultural independence.

It is for the blessing of this Revolution that today the Islamic Republic of Iran has been termed as the island of peace and stability in the Middle East, while in some regional countries social tensions, sectarian strife, and civil turmoil have become an increasing trend. The Islamic Republic of Iran that owes its victory to the sacrifices offered and the blood shed by the brave and valiant youth of this land, survived all sorts of machinations, ranging from the imposed war, economic blockade, and the freezing of Iranian assets. Furthermore no incident of any magnitude whether devastating earthquake, or the colossal floods or even the sorts of problems that are associated with the Third World countries, the least of which are the economic constraints, have withered the resoluteness of the Revolution to bring about the ideal society it has promised to the great nation of Iran and its future generations. A society that encourages its entire members to be devoted, and dynamically pursue construction in all social, economic, cultural and other various fields of activity, and to found a modern politico-social system, on the basis of the Islamic tenets that will put an end to suppression, injustice, corruption and decadence, and to present that system to the world community, particularly the Islamic World. A society, where even the prisons have been converted into educational centres for convicts to attend different vocational training courses, and become useful citizens.

All such achievements were made possible in Iran because of the blessing and the impression the Islamic Revolution on the Iranian people. There is no doubt that the strong belief and conviction of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in politico-economic development, the rise leadership of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (peace be upon him) and his rightful successor, Ayatollah Khamenei, and also the timely initiatives and decisions adopted by His Excellency Mr. Rafsanjani the Honourable President of Islamic Republic of Iran, have been very instrumental in such accomplishments.

During the past years the Islamic Republic of Iran has given shelter to millions of refugees from neighbouring countries. Due to unending tension in those countries, there has been a sharp increase in the influx of refugees, and presently the Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting the greatest number of refugees in the world, and has so far provided the best possible services to these refugees with its limited resources, receiving the least amounts of international assistance compared with what is made available to the other countries. From political point of view, the Islamic Republic has pursued its independent foreign policy, and heedless of the big world powers, zealously campaigning for the establishment of peace and tranquility in the region and has always advocated this noble idea that expansionist policies have to be removed from the global equations. The Islamic Republic of Iran continuously insists on detente at global level, and at regional level particularly in Middle East Central Asia and the Caucasus, on the basis of U.N. Charter and international law and conventions. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that on the basis of the principle of self-determination, aggression and violation of the rights of other nations, have to be ended and their motherlands have to be liberated from foreign occupation. It is also of the opinion that differences and disputes between countries have to be settled peacefully through negotiations and understanding.

The statesmen of the Islamic Republic of Iran have devotedly worked for achieving prosperity and economic growth, in spite of all difficulties and existing shortages and the complicated conditions in world politics. A thorough analysis of the performance of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required here to give a brighter picture of the accomplishments. Reviewing the performance of the

Iranian government during the 5 Years Plan of Economic and Socio-Cultural Development in its entirety would not be possible through these limited pages, hence a summary of what has been done will be presented as follows:

1. Reconstruction of war stricken areas that include five provinces, tens of big and small cities, hundreds of thousands of residential quarters, factories, industries, hospitals, bridges, educational centres etc., and especially the reconstructions of Abadan and Khurmshahr.

2. Reconstruction of quake-stricken areas in Gilan and Zanjan provinces.

3. The government embarked on a huge programme to extend health services to even the remotest areas of the country, the result of which is more than 4,340 new clinics, 2,810 new health care centres for medical treatment in rural areas were constructed, and more than 827,000 children under 6 years of age were covered by the immunisation system. In addition to that more than 1,200 new clinics were established for workers. The infant mortality rate of decreased from 45 to 35 for every one thousand. The mortality rate of the mothers was also reduced by half compared with the previous figure. Proper plans were also formulated and carried out to eradicate deadly diseases.

4. With the success obtained in population control during the first plan, according to which the population growth rate was reduced from 3.27 to 2.37, now it is hoped that growth rate will be reduced by 1.87 at the end of the second plan.

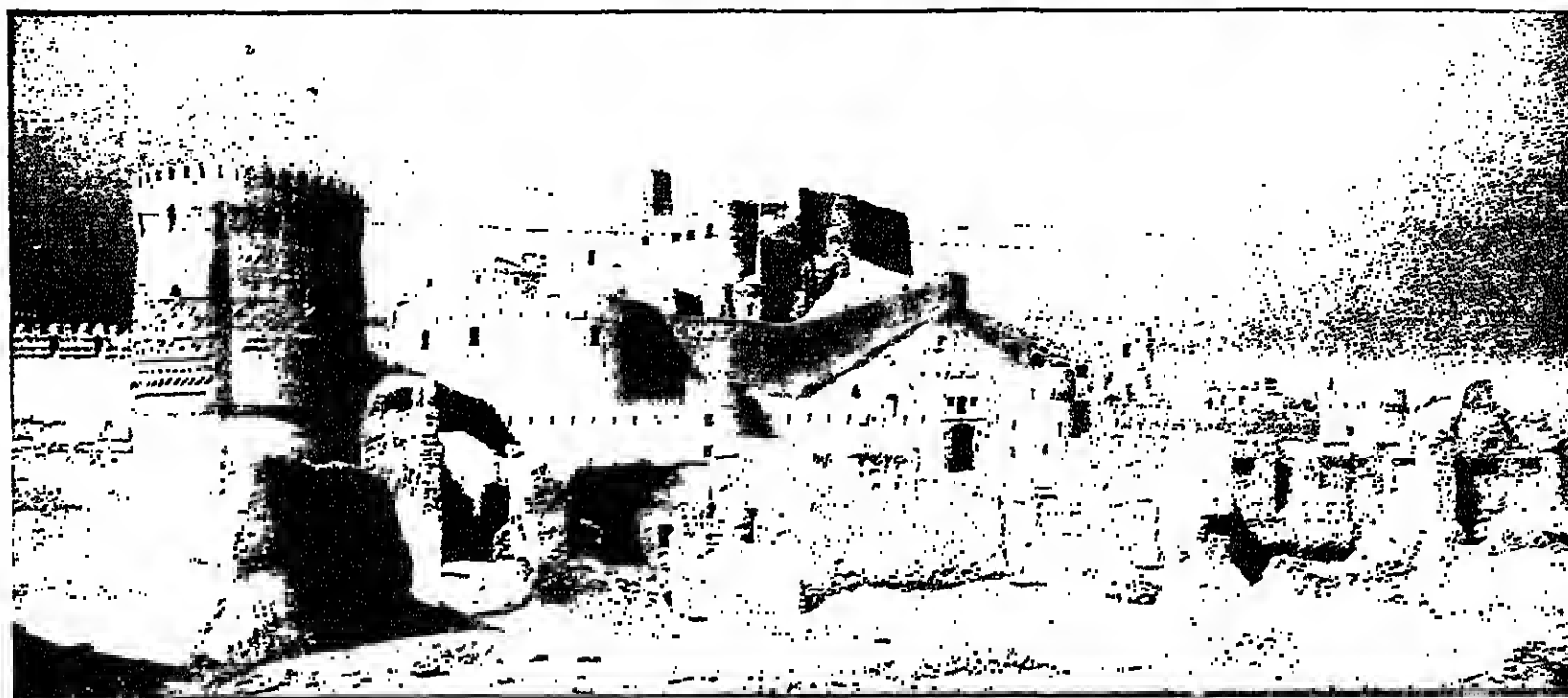
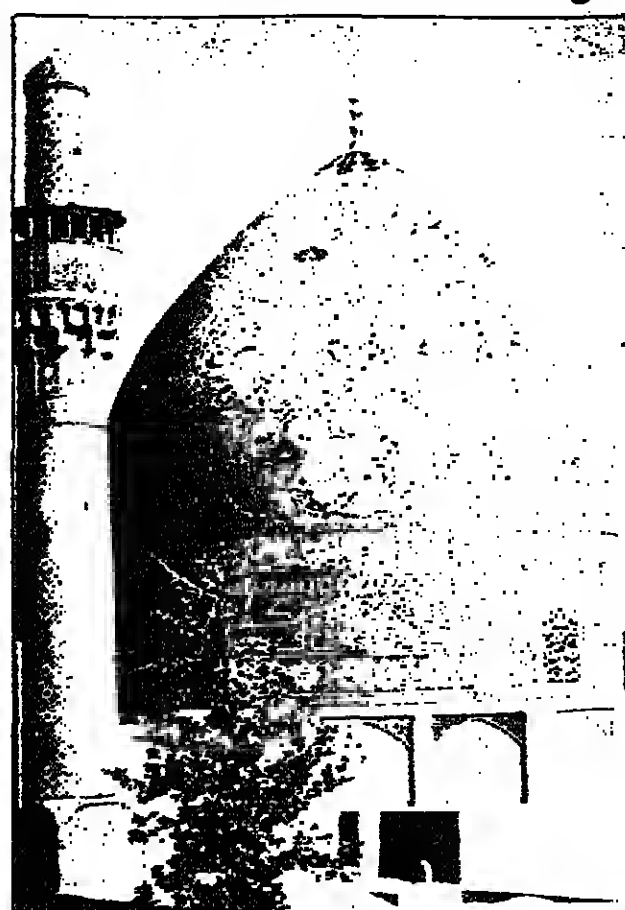
5. The number of university professors and instructors at medical schools have been increased by 160 per cent. The existence of 18 million school and university students in this country of 56 million population in 1992 reveals that about a third of the total population are somehow taking part in the process of education.

6. In the agricultural field, there was a remarkable increase in wheat, rice, sugar beet, cotton and cereal production. This gained the country \$11 billion annually. While 28 per cent of the country's manpower are engaged in agriculture, agricultural productions comprise 30 per cent of non-oil export of the country. The average growth rate during the first four years in agriculture sector was 6.3 per cent.

7. During the first five-year development plan some of the largest investments in the history of Iran materialised one after the other. They included Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex, Arak Petrochemical



Islamic ornaments cover the dome of Imam Ja'far Al Sadeq Mosque in Asfahan (right). Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (left).



The two thousand-year-old historical fortress at the Arg-i-Bam is one of the tourist sights in Kerman that is reminiscent of the details of old-time life.

Complex, the Copper manufacturing complex in Sar Cheshmah, and the colossal Moharake Steel Complex. In the First Development Plan, Iran witnessed many new projects that contributed to the reconstruction and development of the country. They ranged from the construction of dams (Pishim, Jiroft and Saveh) to building Shahid Rajai Power Plant in Qazvin, Ghareh Power Plant in Hamadan, Ramin Power in Ahwaz, reconstruction of Ahwaz Steel Industries, and the achievement of the great sugar plant in the south of Iran.

Today, Iranian industries are going through a rapid coordinated growth in order to be able to meet the country's requirements in the future. Only in the industrial sector, Iranian industries have had an average annual growth of 12.7 per cent during the years 1988-1992. All this development has been achieved thanks to the implementation

of the new economic policy as provided in the first development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Included in this policy are the renewed policy of privatisation, establishing profit mechanisms, an anti-monopoly economic policy and giving way to healthy competition. With the implementation of these policies Iran's non-oil exports in 1992 has had a growth of 12.9 per cent for carpet and 38.3 per cent for agricultural products.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran has about 4,847 kilometres of network of main roads and about 1,184 kilometres of secondary roads that traverse 16 provinces. Presently, 3,705 kilometres of main roads are also under construction. Presently, about 2,000 kilometres of railways tracks are under construction and plans for 3,000 kilometres of railways throughout the vast area of Iran are being studied.

Bafq-Bandar Abbas and Sarakhs-Mashhad railway projects will ultimately link east Asian and new independent republics to our railways network which will connect European network to Asia, and the east Asian network will link with the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

9. Estimation of non-oil exports during the second Economic Development plan is about 24.5 billion which shows an increase of 109 per cent compared to the total value of non-oil exports during the First Development plan which was estimated at \$11.717 billion.

Iran's oil reserves are estimated at 89 billion barrels which equals to 10 per cent of the total global reserve. Meanwhile Iran's natural gas resources is one of the largest in the Middle East and second in the world. It is estimated at 17 trillion square feet. These two natural products are the main sources of re-

venues. Iran attaches special importance to the consumption of natural gas because it is more economical and at the same time reduces air pollution. Following the victory of Islamic Revolution more than 1,250,000 new households and workshops have been connected to the home and industrial gas network. The Isfahan steel Mill is one of the establishments that use natural gas. The project for supplying gas to Europe, one of the biggest projects of Iranian oil industry, will provide a new source of energy for European countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while playing its constructive role at the economic, social and cultural arenas, is also committed and determined to contribute to the advancement of human civilisation. To this end, despite the constraints and pressure by the arrogant world powers the government has taken fundamental strides in better-

ment of economic, social, cultural condition and encouraging wider participation of people in the political life of the country. To achieve the high ideals and goals of the Islamic Revolution, we need to have peace and stability in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. For this reason, Iran, as a peace-loving power, seeks to establish amicable relations with other countries, to promote peace and security in this strategic region and believes regional security should be maintained by the country of the region without the intervention of outside forces. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been constructively involved in resolution on crises and hostilities in the proximity of its geographical boundaries which clearly demonstrate our desire for world peace and our belief in the peaceful resolution of conflicts among nations and governments.

Israel completes pullout

(Continued from page 1)

peace process. Standing atop a hill that overlooks the main Israeli highway to Lake Tiberias a few kilometres further north as the Golan mountains loomed in the background, the King said he saw no reason for Syria to resent the Jordanian success in regaining its rights and making peace with Israel.

"I hope not," said the King when asked whether he thought Syria was resenting or even "jealous" of the Jordanian success. "We faced up to our responsibilities and we hope that others will do the same," he said.

The King implicitly urged Syria to break the deadlock in its peace talks with Israel and accelerate the pace of negotiations. While "the goodwill of all the world" was there to see Syria and Israel make peace, any settlement has to be worked out "directly between the parties" themselves, said the King.

The King, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Ali, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai, added: "I hope they

(the other Arabs involved in peace talks with Israel) will achieve what we have achieved and we will have peace in the region."

The peace treaty restored to Jordan all the land that was occupied by Israel in the north in 1950 and in the south after the 1967 war. A definite figure on the area restored to Jordanian territory would be known in terms of square kilometres only after the process of demarcation is completed with concrete pillars along the borders. It could take several months, but the area is between 340 and 380 square kilometres, officials said.

The formal completion of Israel's evacuation of the Jordanian land that began on Jan. 30 was marked in simultaneous ceremonies held near this northern Jordanian village and also in the southern Al Ghamar area.

Brigadier-General Abed Khalaf, commander of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division in the north, and Major-General Mohammad Mikaw, commander of Jordan's southern region based in Aqaba, met with their Israeli counterparts near the new marked borders and took over the evacuated territories

and moved their units forward.

The 832-dunum plot in the north, occupied by Israel since 1950, offers Jordan strategic access to the congruence of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. The newly marked border places the Jordanian fence about two kilometres westwards, including an area where Israelis from a nearby kibbutz have been tilling.

Under the peace treaty, Jordan will allow the Israeli farmers to enter the area and continue their farming activities for a period of 25 years.

Annex 1 (b) of the peace treaty stipulates that the two sides recognise "that in the area which is under Jordanian sovereignty with Israel private land ownership rights," and Jordan will give "unimpeded entry to, exit from land, (and) usage and movement within the area to the landowners and their invitees ... and allow the landowners freely to dispose of their land in accordance with the applicable Jordanian law."

In return, Israel undertakes "not to carry out or allow to be carried out in the area activities prejudicial to the peace or security of Jordan," not to allow unauthorised persons to enter the

area or anyone to "carry weapons of any kind in the area; unless authorised by the licensing authorities in Jordan ... (and) not to allow the dumping of waste from outside this area."

Several Israeli farmers and kibbutz residents among the nearly 300 Israelis gathered for the signing of Jordanian-Israeli cooperation agreements at a ceremony on the Israeli side of the border, said they felt the return of the land to Jordan was worth the peace that Israel now has with its eastern neighbour.

"To be frank, I feel bad that now I need special permits to enter an area we have been farming for many years," said Yonathan Adler, a resident of Ashdod Yacov, about two kilometres from the Jordanian border.

"But, the land is being returned to Jordanian sovereignty for the good cause of peace, and that is more important," he added. "We are happy that peace has been achieved."

Shilo, a 15-year-old school-girl, also from Ashdod Yacov, said she enthusiastically waved Jordanian and Israeli flags: "We are very pleased that there will no longer be any wars. I hope to make friends with Jordanian children."

The history of the land

(Continued from page 1) ity of Jordan. The sites will not be used for military purposes and no one will be allowed to carry weapons except with Jordanian government permission under the existing licensing procedures for firearms in the Kingdom.

The 830 dunams in the north have no relation with a 6,000-dunum plot where the Palestine Electricity Company (owned by the Jewish Agency, the predecessor of Israel), operated a hydroelectric power plant. The plant was built and operated under a concession granted by the British mandate authorities in 1926 in the personal name of Pinhas Rottenburg — thus the area came to be known as the Rottenburg project.

Wasfi Bisharat, a Jordanian entrepreneur, had also sought the concession, but the mandate authorities assured him that nearby Jordanian areas will be supplied by the Palestine Electricity Company, which is now the Israeli Electricity Company.

The Rottenburg project involved building a diver-

sion canal from the River Yarmouk for the hydroelectric plant. Rottenburg purchased the surrounding land and launched the project which started operations in 1932.

While the pre-Rottenburg ownership of the land could not be established on a dunum-to-dunum basis, "there was nothing illegal about the purchase," said Dr. Haddadin. "All the prevailing laws and regulations were followed."

The Rottenburg project was closed down in 1938 "because of financial and technical reasons," said Dr. Haddadin. Israel had not pushed into the 832 dunams situated directly opposite to the Rottenburg project in 1950 "not because of the importance of the hydroelectric project" since the entire project was destroyed in the 1948 war, he said.

Obviously Israel wanted to deny Jordan access to the congruence of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

Today, one can see the wrecked ruins of the hydroelectric plant on the diverted canal and the

bombed out shells of thousands of housing units which were once occupied by Rottenburg employees. The trunks of hundreds of palm trees surrounding the hydroelectric plant remain black, a reminder of the ferocity of the 1948 war.

The plant has been stripped of every valuable piece of metal; a result of the large-scale looting that

went hand-in-hand with the war.

The ownership of the Rottenburg land was settled with the peace treaty and the land now belongs to the Jordanian government.

A proposal to develop the area as a tourist spot, with hotels and an artificial lake, is very much on the table.

Kabariti heads for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

work with (the Arab and Israeli sides) to define political mechanisms to give real meaning to the Cairo declaration in the political, economic and security fields."

The official was referring to a communiqué issued by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rahin and His Majesty King Hussein after their landmark summit in the Egyptian capital on Feb. 2.

The Cairo declaration emphasised the Arab and Israeli commitment to making peace and implementing the agreements already reached. They particularly emphasised the "urgency of taking the necessary measures" to advance the Israel-PLO agreement.

The declaration also expressed the leaders' commitment to oppose "bloodshed, terror and violence in the region," supported the Egyptian call for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, agreed to enhance cooperation, encourage joint projects and attract international private investment, and reaffirmed their resolve to set up a regional development bank.

American officials have not been fully forthcoming in how they thought the Cairo declaration could be implemented. In a regular press briefing on Thursday, State Department acting spokeswoman Christine Shelly said she could not provide any details about Sunday's meeting.

Peace with Israel not enough for Arab investment boom — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The end of long-standing hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbours will improve investment in the Middle East but will not be enough to spur a major capital influx, an official study has said.

Although peace will end nearly 46 years of conflict, the region will remain tense unless Arabs patch up their internal rifts and improve relations with neighbouring Iran and Turkey, said the study by

the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

The study obtained here said five major wars between Israel and Arab states had severely harmed development in the region due to the heavy human and financial losses and expenditure on weapons by the warring parties.

"The end of the Arab-Israeli conflict will lead to an improvement in the investment climate and con-

sequently a greater capital inflow," it said.

"But such a peace is not the only factor that could trigger a capital influx. Arab states should iron out their differences and resolve existing dispute between them and neighbouring countries," it added.

"Unless Arabs establish ties based on mutual respect and good-neighbourliness with the countries which have regional ambitions, like Iran

and Turkey, those disputes will remain a source of tension and instability in the area," the study pointed out.

Relations between Iran and its Arab Gulf neighbours have been tense over a territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and religious and ideological disagreements with Saudi Arabia.

Gulf states are also wary of Iran's armament programme, including the

purchase of Russian submarines.

Turkey has maintained strong links with Gulf nations, but it has been locked in a dispute with neighbouring Iraq and Syria over sharing the waters of the Euphrates river.

The Kurdish problem has also been a source of tension between Turkey and Iraq, as Ankara claims that Kurdish guerrillas are using bases in Iraq.

ACIG, which was set up

by the Arab League 15 years ago to encourage investment among its 22 members, said regional states also needed to pursue economic reforms to attract domestic and foreign capital.

"Politics is not the only factor in attracting investment, as the economic factor is equally important. Investors always look for security as well as for profit, which cannot be achieved without a strong economy," it said.

It noted that capital flow to Arab nations had sharply declined after 1985 as the economies of most members slowed down due to low oil prices. It said Arab oil income plummeted from \$213 billion in 1980 to \$53 billion in 1986.

"This led to a sharp downturn in the economy, with the annual average growth in the gross domestic product standing at 1.7 per cent in the late 1980s, compared with 4.7

per cent in other developing countries," the study said.

ACIG estimated that Arab investment around \$12.2 billion covering 5,297 projects. Nearly \$7.8 billion are invested by Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The figure is dwarfed by total Arab assets of between \$600 and \$800 billion, invested mainly in the West.

Dollar expected to strengthen over the next six months

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Feb. 2, 1995 until Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1995 was provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill-Lynch in Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental View: A weaker-than-expected U.S. employment report last Friday sparked rallies in U.S. stock and bond markets and in the dollar as investors took the report as a sign that U.S. growth is slowing and there will be less need for further rate hikes by the Fed. Rate hikes tend to erode the value of stock and bond assets and therefore can have a negative effect on the dollar even though rate hikes are normally a net positive for the dollar by increasing the return on U.S. money market assets and decreasing the threat of inflation.

We continue to expect the Fed to raise rates at least one more time and look for the dollar to strengthen over the next six months. Dollar strength should come from a number of sources including wider spread between U.S. and foreign short rates, a marked slowdown in U.S. capital outflows, and a potential increase in inflows as investors appear to be increasing their risk aversion to the high-yielding markets.

Additional support for the dollar should also come in the form of decreased fears of a meltdown in the Mexican market and a spillover into other emerging markets. Many emerging markets, particularly the Asian markets, have sizable dollar reserves and a run on their currency will prompt dollar sales.

Our three-and-six-month forecast for the yen is JPY/USD 105 and for the mark is DM/USD 1.60-1.65.

Technical View: Improved sentiment and constructive short term momentum continued to help the U.S. dollar as the greenback rallied against five of the six major currencies that we discuss. The Canadian dollar was the only one to rally against the U.S. currency. As a result, the U.S. dollar index recorded its second straight weekly gain with a rally of 0.7 per cent. Short term momentum is in an uptrend, allowing for further strength.

Thus, even though medium term oscillators are top, the prospects for a rally are likely to postpone the developing peak. Nonetheless, we will monitor the extent of the current rally since the next short term peak may also be a more important medium term top. Support is at 86.90, then the October low at 84.91. Important resistance remains in the 89.00-91.00 area.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The Japanese yen is currently trading near JPY/USD 99.4 but we think there is a good case for yen weakness over the next few months, though we maintain our longer-term outlook for yen strength. The short-term interest rate spread between the U.S. and Japan is strongly supportive of the U.S. dollar with the 3-month interest rate spread just under 400 basis points and the 12-month spread nearly 440 basis points. Furthermore, those spreads are likely to be even wider should, as we expect, the Fed increase rates again. Conversely, the Hanshin earthquake in Japan will dampen growth in the near-term and force the Bank of Japan to keep rates low until at least the third or fourth quarter. Looking ahead, however, this spread should begin to narrow and erode support for the dollar. In the third quarter, the multiplicity effect of the rebuilding process should boost Japanese growth to close to a six per cent rate putting upward pressure on Japanese short rates.

The spread between real U.S. and Japanese rates should also narrow in the second half as strong growth and increased bond issuance put upward pressure on Japanese long rates.

However, the most important variable for determining the yen-dollar exchange rate is the cumulative current account surplus and whether or not it is being fully recycled in the form of net capital outflows from Japan. The current account surplus for 1995 is expected to fall to \$97 billion from \$130 billion in 1994, but it remains to be seen whether or not Japanese net capital outflows can come even close to matching this pace.

We maintain our three- and six-month outlook for JPY/USD 105 and our 12-month outlook of JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.5 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 3. The sentiment background for the currency has begun to deteriorate and is moving away from its recent oversold readings. Benchmark support remains at 100.80-101.80 Y/U.S.\$ and, with short term momentum exerting downward pressure, that support may be tested again over the near term. However, medium term oscillators are nearing oversold readings, suggesting that any nearby weakness may be the prelude to a more sustainable rally (support by both short and medium term oscillators) later on. If so, this would suggest a more severe challenge of the 96-97 area (and possibly beyond) once the current weakness runs its course.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental View: The dollar enjoyed a sustained rally against the mark over the last week as the U.S. raised interest rates and a better-than-expected employment report caused rallies in U.S. stock and bond markets. The mark is currently trading near DM/USD 1.53 compared to DM/USD 1.51 where it had been trading for the last couple of weeks. Still, the mark remains strong compared to its December low of DM/USD 1.58.

Looking ahead, we expect the mark to return to trade near DM/USD 1.60 over the next three months as the short-term interest rate spread between the U.S. and Germany continues to widen. Also supporting the dollar is a marked slowdown in U.S. net portfolio capital outflows.

In 1990-92, these outflows averaged less than \$12.5 billion per quarter or \$50 billion at an annual rate. In 1993, net outflows surged and were as high as \$41 billion in the third-quarter, or nearly \$165 billion at an annual rate. However, by the second-half of 1994, net outflows began to slow materially and are now close to their 1990-92 pace.

Indeed, it is possible that portfolio capital inflows will outweigh outflows in the first-quarter of this year, particularly if investors become more risk averse to some of the high-yield markets and lean towards core-market assets. Our three-six- and 12-month forecast remains at DM-USD 1.60, 1.65, 1.60, respectively.

Technical View: The Deutsche mark fell 0.8 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment continues to deteriorate and is now near overbought. Medium term oscillators appear to have bottomed, but short term momentum is heading lower. This suggests that the currency is in the early stages of a near term decline and that this decline will serve to relieve the building medium term pressures and carry the medium term oscillators to better oversold levels.

In the meantime, nearby resistance exists at 1.492-1.509 DM/USD. At this point, 1.58 is benchmark support, although there is intervening support at 1.542-1.582. Against the yen, the D-mark rallied 0.8 per cent last week. Resistance exists at 66.60 with important trendline support near 63.50-64.00.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound continued to weaken against a rejuvenated dollar, dropping below USD/GBP 1.65 to trade around USD/GBP 1.56. The pound also weakened against the mark, dropping to DM/GBP 2.38. The Channel-

Isle of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke announced the decision to raise base rates by 50 basis points at the Feb. 2 monetary meeting between the Bank of England governor and the chancellor of the exchequer. While widening the U.K.-German nominal spread, the rate hike failed to boost the pound which continues to be weak against the DM. Political uncertainty surrounding Prime Minister John Major's tenuous hold on power appears to be weighing down the pound.

Our U.K. economists are not convinced that Major's political troubles will push the pound significantly lower. The widening U.K.-German interest differential and sound U.K. fundamentals are expected to dominate political uncertainty and drive the pound towards our 12-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.50.

Technical View: The British pound fell 1.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 3, and was the weakest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment has moved into overbought territory. While short term momentum has peaked at near overbought levels, medium term indicators are improving. Thus, any nearby weakness will probably only serve to postpone the creation of a more important bottom.

A rally decisively through 1.602 U.S.\$/£ could well signal an eventual challenge of the 1994 high at \$1.638. Nearby support is \$1.561, with benchmark support at \$1.544-1.550.

Against the DM, sterling fell 0.9 per cent last week. Despite recent deterioration, momentum is still only neutral, suggesting an upcoming test of the August low at 2.378. Resistance exists at 2.435, then above 2.46.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc, like the Deutsche mark, fell against the dollar in the latest week to S.F./USD 1.30 compared to S.F./USD 1.28 a week ago. The franc was also slightly weaker against the mark, but continued to trade near S.F./DM 0.85. For more than a month, the franc, like the Deutsche mark, was supported by its "safe haven" status, but demand for that purpose appears to have slowed now that the Mexican market crisis appears to be under control. If the Mexican crisis had continued and there were another run on other emerging market currencies, there might have been sizable dollar reserve sales which would have weighed heavily on the dollar. The international support package for Mexico greatly alleviated these fears and investors will probably be more inclined to invest in dollar assets again.

Our outlook is for continued franc depreciation and we expect the franc to trade at S.F./USD 1.38 and DM/USD 0.66 in 12-month's time.

Canadian dollar

Fundamental View: The rally in U.S. stock and bond markets last Friday caused a rally in the Canadian markets which gave the C\$ a much needed boost. Currently, the C\$ is trading at a six-week high of C\$/US\$ 1.395. We also remain optimistic but caution that it is important to see the details of the budget before concluding that Canada is safe from falling into a "debt-trap".

Meanwhile, the Bank of Canada continues to be supportive of the C\$ and raised their overnight money rate by 50 basis points to match the U.S. rate increase.

Our outlook continues to be one of caution in the near-term as we wait to see the details of the budget and some caution in the medium-term as politics heat up again. However, we remain optimistic about the longer-term due to economic fundamentals.

Our Canadian analyst, Karim Basta, looks for the C\$ to trade near C\$/US\$ 1.38 in three-months, C\$/US\$ 1.34 in six-months and C\$/US\$ 1.28 in twelve months.

Technical View: The Canadian dollar gained 1.1 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, making it the strongest currency

among the six we most regularly discuss. Despite the recent strength, sentiment remains in oversold territory, although initial signs of reversing are evident.

Short term momentum term oscillators. Thus, the bottom building process is under way and may require the completion of a rally/test sequence before the low is placed.

Support exists just below 1.42 C\$/US\$, then \$1.44-\$1.45. Given the extent of the September.

Australian Dollar

Fundamental View: The Australian dollar continues its steady decline, dipping below the U.S.\$/A\$ 0.75 level, the first time since Nov. 8. The A\$ is currently trading around U.S.\$/A\$ 0.745. Concern over Australia's widening current account deficit is evidently beginning to take a toll on the A\$. The deficit widened 17 per cent in December to a record \$2.39 billion, and the government revised its estimate for the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30 from \$18 billion to \$26 billion, nearly 6 per cent of GNP. The A\$ failed to get support from the interest rate side when the RBA decided not to raise interest rates at its board meeting on Tuesday.

Also contributing to the A\$ woes are weakness in commodity prices. Prices of base metals which account for more than a third of Australia's exports dropped on the London Metal Exchange. Copper prices — which are highly correlated with the A\$ — are now down 10 per cent from their highs, weakening one of the most important pillars of support for the A\$. Given all these negatives, we have revised our forecast for the A\$, lowering our 3-month forecast to U.S.\$/A\$ 0.74. For now, our 12-month forecast continues to be U.S.\$/A\$ 0.75.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The ideal day to begin any new plan that you have in mind. Be sure you contact those persons you want to cooperate with and set up appointments early.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The way in which you handle your credit and other important obligations today will either make a good or bad impression on higher ups. Be sure that you make a good impression.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) By changing your attitude at this time to a more friendly one, you find that you'll come to a real understanding with more business and personal contacts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use that fine comradeship with close ties now and you soon find that much support and cooperation as well as understanding is yours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Shopping should be first on the agenda today, whether it is for the smallest personal items or buying a home, car, or major parts, etc.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day to get together with associates who think straight and have much influence and can assist you with personal matters of property or some new project you have in mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) By being less reserved, you find that many will be attracted to you now and life becomes far more successful and happy. Make as many new contacts as you can this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There's every opportunity now to garner the information you need secretly to help you settle your affairs more wisely. Evening is good for social affairs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Sociability is the key word for today and tonight, so be sure to get an early start and call upon key people so that you can advance more quickly in your chosen career.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The right day to get in touch with those who can help you to greater success in your chosen field, but you must show that you have particular talents that are marketable.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) That fine mind is working cleverly now and you are ridding yourself of inhibitions, so this is the time today to take the step that will lead you in a more successful channel of life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show that you are an upright citizen by getting taxes and other bills paid up well as all personal and business debts that are currently pressing. This evening is good for entertainment.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

ACROSS

- 1 Extreme
- 2 Jostle
- 3 Ring suit
- 4 Great hunter of myth
- 5 Sodaless Mella
- 6 Fussy woman
- 7 Bird
- 8 Building wing
- 9 Drunkard
- 10 Bulldozing missile
- 11 Foolish
- 12 Oppenheimer's
- 13 Some grind
- 14 Their
- 15 Runnages
- 16 through
- 17 Film producer
- 18 once
- 19 Classic
- 20 Liquid measures
- 21 Gun go.
- 22 Food regimen
- 23 Lash of
- 24 Westerns
- 25 Mushroom piece
- 26 du Double
- 27 Tears down
- 28 Memorable
- 29 Outdated
- 30 Gardeners, at times
- 31 — of the
- 32 Open
- 33 Just
- 34 Violent Leopold
- 35 Towns center
- 36 Grin's stopping point
- 37 Biography's
- 38 Actor Wallach
- 39 Turn inside out
- 40 Encountered
- 41 Defense
- 42 Clark's partner

DOWN

- 1 Sky denizens
- 2 Come
- 3 Slangy negative
- 4 Spare the —
- 5 Use a necktie
- 6 — Doves
- 7 Actor Law, once
- 8 Lingerie item
- 9 Outdated
- 10 Gardeners, at times
- 11 — of the
- 12 Open
- 13 Just
- 14 Simpson trial judge
- 15 Descended
- 16 through
- 17 Film producer
- 18 once
- 19 Classic
- 20 Liquid measures
- 21 Gun go.
- 22 Food regimen
- 23 Lash of
- 24 Westerns
- 25 Mushroom piece
- 26 du Double
- 27 Tears down
- 28 Memorable
- 29 Outdated
- 30 Gardeners, at times
- 31 — of the
- 32 Open
- 33 Just
- 34 Violent Leopold
- 35 Towns center
- 36 Grin's stopping point
- 37 Biography's
- 38 Actor Wallach
- 39 Turn inside out
- 40 Encountered
- 41 Defense
- 42 Clark's partner

43 Close call sound

44 Close call sound

45 — anything

46 More adorable

47 Swamp

48 Breathing sound

49 Large landmass

50 Fire

51 Spire

52 The humanist

53 — anything

54 More adorable

55 — anything

56 — anything

57 — anything

58 — anything

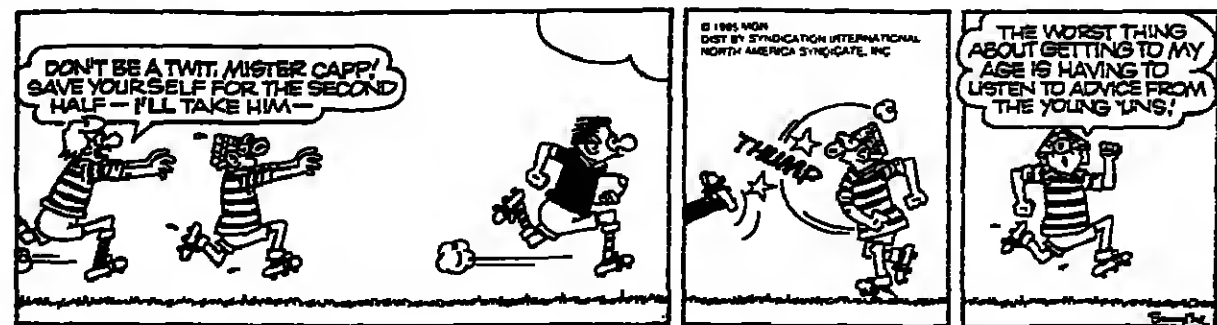
59 — anything

60 — anything

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOYUL
RAWY
RIMSEY
DOWPLE

THE NEXT STEP IS...
She really knows her stuff!

WHAT THE KNITTING TEACHER GAVE HER STUDENTS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "CROON" OF "DANCE"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUNCE CROON EMPLOY UTMOST
Answer: What the pitcher got from his preachers manager — A SERMON ON THE MOUND

Business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

'Burned market' offers bright bargains

A 20-inch screen television costs JD 290 at the wholesale price from a company's warehouse and JD 320 at the retail price, but the same television can be found for between JD 200 to JD 210 at the "al souq al mahrouq" or, in English, "the burned market".

Another 20-inch screen television is sold for JD 280; a 30-inch screen costs JD 350 at the agent's stores but JD 300 at the market it sells between JD 250 to JD 260.

Ziyad Al Sallal, a wholesaler, explains: "A trader buys goods from a factory against cheques. But, when under pressure to settle other financial obligations which he cannot afford, the trader is forced to sell the products at a loss to raise cash."

Mr. Sallal adds: "We buy these products at a 'burned price' and we sell them at a 'burned price'." Mr. Sallal points out that he cannot sell a television for JD 350 when his neighbour is selling it for JD 220.

Mahmoud Al Abbadi, an agent and distributor of electrical supplies in Salt, says that the phenomenon of "al souq al mahrouq" started in 1991, grew bigger in 1993 and reached its peak in 1994. He points out that it is now a huge phenomenon with JD 7 to JD 8 million volume.

Mr. Abbadi blames unfair competition among manufacturers, importers and businessmen who all want a larger share of the market. He says they began flooding the market with their products and giving large and long-term credit facilities. "Traders began selling at lower prices until the system collapsed like cancer," he says.

Rafiq Awad, another agent and distributor of electrical products, explained that the beginning of the "burned market" was a liquidity problem among merchants who were seeking the easiest way to obtain cash without having to provide securities or guarantees demanded by banks.

Blaming banks for the emergence of this market, Mr. Awad said they were demanding high interest rates which they could not offer. As a result, the traders obtained their unsecured credits by buying goods directly from manufacturers and then selling them immediately at loss to raise cash.

But why are manufacturers and importers going along with this system? Mr. Awad sees the basic reason in the inability of manufacturers to sell their products in outside markets and in the pressure on importers to buy larger quantities from overseas suppliers. This, he said, caused a flooding of products into the market and a rise of "al souq al mahrouq".

Shedding more light on the mechanism of the "burned market", Mr. Awad says, for example, if a trader buys two ways out of the deal, the same party he bought it from or, approach the merchant for any opportunity to purchase the goods.

Mr. Awad adds that there are many merchants who take the opportunity of financial squeeze of others to squeeze them to sell their goods at "burned" prices.

(Al Dustour).

to be continued tomorrow

Amman stock market in Ramadan lethargy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices and turnover dropped at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week as the lethargy of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan set in among investors amid anticipation of a capital shift to the primary market for fresh issues, brokers said Friday.

Among factors cited by the brokers for the obvious stagnation in the market were also the strict enforcement of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) guidelines on commercial bank credits as well as the introduction of fresh stocks

by some companies. The weekly report of the market said volume for the week ending Thursday was JD 3.4 million, down 15 per cent from the previous week's JD 4 million.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 140.68 points after losing 1.6 points or 1.1 per cent during the week, the report said. At one point during the week the index had dropped to 140.62 points.

The separate sectoral indices showed that services sector shares lost 2.6 points

(two per cent), industrial stock lost two points (1.6 per cent), commercial bank shares lost 1.1 points, or 0.7 per cent and insurance stock closed 0.6 points or 0.5 per cent as trading came to an end for the week.

Industrial stocks saw the largest turnover in sectoral trading during the week with JD 1.66 million, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.21 million, stocks of services sector companies with JD 500,000 and insurance stock worth JD 21,000.

The week saw stocks of 79 companies changing hands. As trading closed for the week, nine of them, most of them blue chips, showed

gains; 56 closed with losses and 14 remained stable with no change in their price.

The Amman Financial Market lists nearly 120 companies with a total market value equity of about JD 3.6 billion.

About 20 of the 120 are new entities not listed for trading in the secondary market, awaiting the formalisation of their shares and official entry to the floor of their shares. Trading in those shares are classified as "parallel market" transactions but the volume is included in overall turnover in the weekly reports.

Brokers said most investors were taking it easy during Ramadan, when Muslims

fast from sunrise to sunset and observe shorter working hours, and hence the stagnation in the market.

The drop in prices was attributed to investor fears that fresh issues planned by commercial banks to meet the Central Bank directive to raise their capital to JD 20 million would lead to major shifts from the secondary market to the primary market. Brokers said investors did not appear to be taking in the fact that the Central Bank had given the commercial banks until end of 1996 to meet with the capital requirement.

Another reason for the decline was tightened credit policies imposed by the Central Bank. Under the poli-

Billionaire buys control of Israel Chemicals for \$230m

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — In one of the biggest-ever privatisation deals in Israel, billionaire businessman Shaul Eisenberg has purchased controlling interest in Israel Chemicals Ltd., officials have said.

Mr. Eisenberg is buying 24.9 per cent of the conglomerate, which includes the Dead Sea Works Mining Company and other industries, for \$230.5 million, said a finance ministry statement.

"It is our showpiece deal in the effort to sell state companies," said ministry spokesman Eli Yosef.

Since coming to power in 1992, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party-led government has stepped up privatisation of the massive public sector, which employs almost a fifth of Israel's two million workers and accounts for about 17 per cent of the economy.

About \$1.5 billion worth of assets were sold off in 1993. But the drive has slowed because of a collapse of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which lost 40 per cent of its value over the last year.

Other major holdings still on the block are the El Al national airline and the major Israeli banks, which were nationalised as part of a government bailout after they collapsed in 1983.

Joshua Neeman, a spokesman for Mr. Eisenberg, said Israel Chemicals will be registered both under his main holding company, the Israel Corp., and an unnamed foreign company.

"Eisenberg is looking to make the Israel Corp. a player in the international business arena," Mr. Neeman said.

In coming weeks, the government plans to float more Israel Chemicals shares in markets in Israel, America and Europe, retaining only 26 per cent of the stock, Mr. Yosef said.

But the state will maintain control over some aspect of the company's operations that would impact Israel's natural resources through a "golden share" arrangement, Mr. Yosef said.

"When you are talking about a company as large as Israel Chemicals, with such impact on natural resources and employment, it's very difficult for the state to break free entirely," said Yoram Ziv, a former Israel Chemicals director.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SENGISANI				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/02/1995 - 08/02/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	206,670	184.500	184.500	184.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	60,326	4.280	4.280	4.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	88,595	4.160	4.160	4.100
BANK OF JORDAN	18,339	3.600	3.600	3.580
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	12,552	1.470	1.470	1.440
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	16,044	2.840	2.840	2.650
THE HOUSING BANK	55,157	5.950	5.950	5.950
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	11,605	3.000	3.000	2.950
JORDAN GULF BANK	344,764	1.470	1.470	1.370
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	86,982	3.750	3.750	3.710
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	51,000	5.100	5.100	5.100
BUSINESS BANK	43,740	3.500	3.500	3.480
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	39,644	4.240	4.240	4.170
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12,914	3.150	3.150	3.050
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	136,535	1.320	1.320	1.290
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,677	4.150	4.150	4.150
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	20,276	1.520	1.520	1.400
BANKS SECTOR		1207819	INDEX NUMBER: 157.12	CHANGE: -0.72%
UNION INSURANCE	4,025	2.800	2.800	2.690
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1,230	4.200	4.200	4.100
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	6,799	2.360	2.360	2.290
YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	6,300	3.100	3.100	3.150
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	1,574	2.500	2.500	2.500
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,300	2.600	2.600	2.600
INSURANCE SECTOR		21238	INDEX NUMBER: 135.55	CHANGE: -0.45%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	38,722	1.480	1.480	1.460
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	98,140	1.390	1.390	1.360
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	1,968	6.250	6.250	6.560
JORDAN HIGH MINERAL	295	2.950	2.950	2.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	23,490	5.000	5.000	4.700
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	22,293	3.240	3.240	3.150
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	12,098	2.200	2.200	2.110
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA'X	5,995	11.950	11.950	11.950
UNION MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	39,705	2.350	2.350	2.270
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	18,827	3.540	3.540	3.600
JORDANIAN REPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	2,415	1.370	1.370	1.380
SERVICES SECTOR		262936	INDEX NUMBER: 128.00	CHANGE: -2.00%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	42,750	30.300	30.300	34.500
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	520,628	2.920	2.920	2.950
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1,425	2.850	2.850	2.850
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	3,063	5.050	5.050	5.050
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9,827	9.500	9.500	9.400
JORDAN TANNING	10,875	7.500	7.500	7.500
GRAND TOTAL		2826913	INDEX NUMBER: 140.68	CHANGE: -1.58%
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/02/1995 - 08/02/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	29,029	0.890	0.890	0.860
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	95,045	0.820	0.820	0.770
SARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	39,885	1.420	1.420	1.500
UNIFIED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	21,365	2.360	2.360	2.250
ARAB FIN INV.CO	46,777	1.070	1.070	0.960
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	642	1.050	1.050	1.050
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	31,294	1.690	1.690	1.640
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	30,290	1.750	1.750	1.630
NATIONAL MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES	40,498	1.270	1.270	1.120
EL-SAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	1,112	2.290	2.290	2.250
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	108,653	1.460	1.460	1.430
NATIONAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES	69,121	1.240	1.240	1.120
JORDAN STEEL	13,963	1.000	1.000	0.960
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	27,844	1.100	1.100	1.120
GRAND TOTAL		555631		

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Control Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/2/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7016	0.7030
Sterling Pound	1.0877	1.0931
Deutsche Mark	0.4577	0.4606
Swiss Franc	0.5409	0.5436
French Franc	0.1323	0.1330
Japanese Yen	0.0092	0.0117
Dutch Guilder	0.4084	0.4104
Swedish Krona	0.0434	0.0436
Italian Lira	0.0034	0.0036
Belgian Franc	0.0034	0.0036

Other Currencies Date: 9/2/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	1.8430	1.8630
Lebanese Lira	0.041975	0.042865
Saudi Riyal	0.1862	0.1878
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3200	0.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1933
UAE Dirham	0.0000	0.1130
Greek Drachmas	0.1902	0.1915
Cypriot Pound	0.2815	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.4025	1.5115

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4010/20	Canadian dollar	1.5276/86
	1.5276/86	Deutsche marks	1.7126/36
	1.7126/36	Dutch guilders	1.2918/28
	1.2918/28	Swiss francs	31.43/47
	31.43/47	Belgian francs	5.2877/27
	5.2877/27	French francs	1616.8/7.8
	1616.8/7.8	Italian lire	98.88/97
	98.88/97	Japanese yen	7.4325/25
	7.4325/25	Swedish crowns	6.6860/10
	6.6860/10	Norwegian crowns	6.0165/15
	6.0165/15	Danish crowns	
One sterling	\$1.5554/64		
One ounce of gold	\$376.40/376.80		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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said.
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around \$12.2...
covering, 5.297...
Nearly \$7.8 billion...
vested by Saudi...
and its five partner...
Gulf Cooperation...
(GCC).
The figure is down...
total Arab assets...
between \$600 and \$650...
million, invested mainly...
the West.

business daily beat
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Burned market' offers bright bargains
A 20-inch screen television costs JD 290 at the wholesale price from a company's warehouse and JD 320 at the retail price but the same television can be found for between JD 200 to JD 210 at the "al souq al mahrouq", in English, "the burned market".
Another 20-inch screen television officially costs JD 450 but sells for JD 280; a foreign-made oven costs JD 500 at the agent's stores but for JD 350 in the market it sells between JD 225 to JD 210.
Ziyad Al Sallal, a wholesaler, explains:
A trader buys goods from a factory against cheques. But, being under pressure to settle other financial obligations which he cannot afford, the trader is forced to sell the products at a loss to raise cash.
Mr. Sallal adds: "We buy these products at a 'burned price' and we sell them at a 'burned price'."
Mr. Sallal points out that he cannot sell a television for JD 450 when his neighbour is selling it for JD 220.
Mahmoud Al Abbadi, an agent and distributor of electrical supplies in Salt, says that the phenomenon of "al souq al mahrouq" started in 1992, grew bigger in 1993 and flourished in 1994. He points out that it is now a huge problem with a JD 7 to JD 8 million volume.
Mr. Abbadi blames unfair competition among manufacturers, importers and businessmen who all want a bigger share of the market. As such, they began flooding the market with their products and giving large and long-term credit facilities. Traders began selling at lower prices until the system spread like cancer.
"The burned market started with electrical products and has now reached livestock trade as well as real estate, clothing and even furniture sectors", Mr. Abbadi said.
Rateb Awad, another agent and distributor of electrical products explained that the beginning of the "burned market" was a liquidity problem among merchants who were seeking the easiest way to obtain cash without having to provide securities or guarantees demanded by banks.
Blaming banks for the emergence of this market, Mr. Awad said they were demanding hypothecations which "advers could not offer. As such, the traders obtained their unsecured credits by buying goods directly from manufacturers and then selling them immediately at loss or raise cash.
But why are manufacturers or importers going along with this system?
Mr. Awad sees the basic reason in the inability of manufacturers to sell their products in outside markets and in the pressure on importers to buy larger quantities from overseas suppliers. This situation, according to Mr. Awad, cause a flooding of products into the market and the rise of "al souq al mahrouq".
Shedding more light on the mechanism of the "burned market," Mr. Awad says, for example, if a trader buys goods for JD 200,000 he has only two ways out of the deal. Either he resells the goods to the same party he bought it on or, approach the merchants in the market who fish in any opportunity to purchase the goods.
Mr. Awad adds that there are many merchants who seize the opportunity of insulate squeeze of others to resell them to sell their goods at "burned" prices.
(Al Dustour).

to be continued tomorrow

Violence and corruption overshadow fair play

LONDON (AP) — A fan is stabbed to death in Italy and another gunned down in France. Star striker Eric Cantona vaults into the crowd to attack a spectator while players in England and Malaysia are accused of taking bribes.

Soccer seems to have shown FIFA's fair play image the red card.

Last summer's World Cup in the United States was a huge success in terms of finance, crowd behaviour and even goal-scoring. It was supposed to be the forerunner of new-look, 21st century soccer, marked by sportsmanship, good conduct and high-quality action.

Instead, the seven months since the World Cup have shown all the signs that the world's most popular sport is sliding back into the ugly days of the early 1980s.

Almost two weeks ago, Genoa fan Vincenzo Spagnolo was knifed to death by a teen-age AC Milan supporter prior to an Italian League game. The game was abandoned and the following weekend, all domestic sport in Italy was cancelled as a mark of respect.

On Tuesday, a French fan died two days after he was shot by a rival supporter at a game between two amateur teams.

While the world is stunned by sport-related tragedies like these, Pele, the most famous player of all-time, believes that the deaths of the two fans should not be blamed on soccer.

"We talk a lot about violence in sport, but violence isn't in sport, violence is in society in general," said the Brazilian, in Paris for a 1998 World Cup promotion.



Fans of the Bordeaux football team shout slogans demanding the resignation of their team's trainer in a confrontation with police on Thursday after the team lost to visiting

Le Havre 0-1. Immediately afterwards, they damaged cars in the parking lot (AFP photo)

"When you have a case like this in the game, it shocks people and makes them feel sorry and worried. Of course we want to stop it because violence is not for sports."

English soccer, long plagued by fan violence, has been rocked by scandals this season.

Tax authorities, as well as investigating allegations that some club managers involved in transfer deals with foreign players have broken the rules by receiving gifts from their agents.

One premier league player, Zimbabwean goalkeeper

Bruce Grobbelaar, is under investigation for allegedly taking a 40,000-pound (\$62,000) bribe to fix the result of a Liverpool-Newcastle game.

Bribery allegations have been rife in Singapore and Malaysia, where 90 players have been implicated in match-fixing.

Although none have yet been charged, officials say many have admitted taking bribes while, in Singapore, a referee is already in jail for accepting bribes from bookmakers.

Cantona's unprecedented clash on Jan. 25 with a fan at the Crystal Palace-Manchester United game prompted worldwide condemnation of the Frenchman's action. It also sparked a debate on how fans should be prevented from continually taunting players from such close range.

The striker, who has a history of violent on-field conduct both in France and England, leaped into the crowd after being expelled. He took a flying, two-footed kick at a Palace supporter who had rushed forward in rows of seats to hurl abuse at him.

United, under pressure from the English Football Association, banned Cantona for the rest of the season. Field invasions have become more common.

The most recent was Wednesday.

After Millwall gained an upset victory at Chelsea in the FA Cup, hundreds of home fans invaded the field to try and get at the visiting fans. Some got there but most were halted by a line of mounted police. Nineteen fans were charged and 11 police officers were injured.

"I hope we are not going back to the hooligan-dominated days of a decade or so ago," said Graham Kelly, the English FA's chief executive. "Great strides have been made in recent years over crowd control."

Stringent security as Italy comes out of mourning

PARIS (AFP) — Italy's week of mourning after a football murder shocked the nation ends on Sunday when AC Milan return to league action amid stringent security at the San Siro stadium.

Fresh from their mid-week European Super Cup triumph over Arsenal, Milan ride a nine-match unbeaten league run into their match against 12th-placed Cagliari.

The Milan club are fifth in the table, 11 points adrift of pacesetters Juventus but with a game in hand and boundless confidence after the 2-0 win against Arsenal, with goals from Croatian defender Zvonimir Boban and rejuvenated international striker Daniele Massaro.

After the stabbing to death of Vincenzo Spagnolo, 25, at Genoa before the kick-off against Milan on January 29, the nation's entire sports programme was scrapped last Sunday and the state adopted a package of measures aimed at stamping out violence.

The Genoa v Milan game was halted at half-time and will be replayed on February 15.

Thousands of police will be deployed at the San Siro stadium on Sunday and the eyes of the world will be focused on the fans whose excesses prompted the first such sports ban in 50 years in Italy.

The resumption brings high-flying Juventus back to earth for a clash against one of the best defences in the league.

Juventus, seeking their first league title in nine years, will not be relishing the trip to Bari, who spell trouble for the leaders who have gained 39 points from 18 games, three more than nearest rivals Parma.

Bari beat third-placed Lazio 2-1 in their last outing with both goals from the striker Sandro Tualieri, in the midst of a career revival.

Known as a journey man pro after making his debut for AS Roma 10 years ago, Tualieri has lived up to his nickname, the Cobra, this season, hitting 13 goals in 18 games, lifting the side to eighth place in the table and rising to second place in the scoring league table behind Fiorentina's Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, on 15.

Lazio, with the most prolific strike force in the league, travel to Torino without their suspended midfielder Roberto Rambaudi who is replaced by Pierluigi Casiraghi. But

their attacking partnership of former Marseille striker Alen Boksic from Croatia and Italian international Giuseppe Signori is on song.

Parma play hosts to Padova and should have no problems piercing the worst defence in the league who have conceded 40 goals so far.

In Spain Real Madrid, six points ahead at the top of the table, will be seeking another three-point haul at bottom club Longines.

But they showed a chink in their armour Thursday night when they were beaten 3-1 and had a man sent off in the first leg of their Spanish Cup clash against Valencia, for whom Russian World Cup star Oleg Salenko scored both goals.

Unsettled Barcelona entertain Racing Santander and are also hoping to bury another midweek disappointment.

A recent plunge in form seemed to be in reverse after last Sunday's 3-1 win against Sporting Gijon.

"The champions are back," said coach Johan Cruyff. "Barcelona still have everything to play for."

Then on Wednesday they were booted off the field after losing the home leg of the Spanish Cup to 3-1 against Atletico Madrid, fourth from bottom of the league.

Deportivo de La Coruna, one point ahead of Barcelona in second place in the table travel to Sporting Gijon, second from bottom.

Brazilian World Cup striker Bebeto will again be in the attack but the club are unsure how much longer they can keep the 29-year-old. Bebeto is determined to cut short his stay in Spain and return to Brazil, probably with Botafogo.

In France all games will be preceded by a minute's silence and players will wear black armbands following the death of a spectator who was shot by a rival supporter after an amateur game in Paris last Sunday.

The death has focussed growing unease over crowd violence and indiscipline on the field.

League leaders FC Nantes, dumped out of the French Cup by non-league Saint Leu a week ago, have lost their way since their stunning 3-1 win over rivals Paris St. Germain last month and they could only draw 1-1 in their midweek local derby against Nantes.

Limoges foil Olympiakos again

LONDON (R) — Limoges kept their two-year unbeaten record against Olympiakos on Thursday, the French triumphing 76-73 in Athens in their European Basketball Champion Clubs' Cup clash.

Limoges led throughout the semifinal series match and the Greeks failed to penetrate the famed French defence in the critical final seconds of the Group B encounter.

The result was a huge disappointment for the 15,000 strong home crowd, but once again it was the class of American guard Michael Young which secured the French victory.

Young netted an impressive 28 points while pivot Jim Bibba contributed 15, repeatedly beating the much taller Greek forwards under the boards.

Limoges, title winners in 1993, now count six straight wins against Olympiakos in Europe and are favourites to top the group. Both clubs have 20 points from 10 games but the final two Limoges matches are at home and against strugglers Badalona and Bayer Leverkusen.

"I don't know why we always have problems with Limoges," an Olympiakos official said. "We are nervous and make mistakes when we play this team and defeat comes naturally."

With Young sinking three-point jumpers and Olympiakos's top marksman Eddie Johnson scoreless in the first 10 minutes, Limoges ended the first half with a nine point lead at 35-26.

In the second half Olympiakos staged a comeback as Johnson recovered and Serb forward Dragan Tarlac pulled down several rebounds after Limoges forwards Marc M'Bahis and Tim Kenton



An unidentified Efe Pisen player (#15) is about to score for his team during their European Basketball Cup clash against Limoges (AFP photo)

fouled out 10 minutes before time.

The Greeks cut the difference to one point at 66-65 with a minute to go but some unnecessary fouls and sloppy solo runs proved their downfall.

In another Group B match, Cibona Zagreb beat Barcelona 97-84 to keep alive their hopes of making it through to the next round.

Cibona's outside shooters made the difference, outscoring Barcelona in three-point throws 10-3.

Forward Davor Marcelic scored 22 points, including

four three-pointers in a phase which helped Cibona to a comfortable halftime lead of 51-39.

They twice stretched 20 points clear in the second half as Barcelona struggled to go the pace.

Marcelic was assisted by Veljko Masic, who scored 21 points including three-pointers.

Efe Pisen of Turkey also lost ground, beaten 68-54 by Bologna. The two clubs are on 19 points, along with Barcelona as a tight scramble looms ahead to make the top four.

Bowe looking ahead to Tyson

LONDON (AP) — The way Riddick Bowe sees it, the World Boxing Organisation belt would be just the ticket to move him to the front of the line when Mike Tyson gets out of jail.

Bowe, frozen out of the heavyweight picture as far as the major titles are concerned, feels he can bring some legitimacy to the lightly-regarded WBO title by beating undefeated holder Herbie Hide in Las Vegas March 11.

"I regard Herbie Hide as the heavyweight champion of the world," said Bowe, who once held the World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation titles.

Bowe lost the WBA and IBF crowns to Evander Holyfield in November 1993, 11 months after dumping his WBC belt in a trash can. He and his manager, Rock Newman, now feel that Bowe can lift the WBO title above all the others in the prestige stakes by beating Hide and setting up a defence against Bowe's friend and former champ Tyson.

"Riddick's ultimate goal before he exits from boxing would be to fight Mike Tyson," said Newman, speaking along with Bowe, from the United States in a telephone conference call with British journalists.

Tyson, convicted of rape in 1992, is expected to be released from an Indiana prison this spring. Boxing officials, notably promoter Don King, have been counting the days, hoping to get some kind of controlling, interesting in Tyson's career when it resumes.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Chinese drug cheats return medals

TOKYO (AFP) — The Chinese Olympic Committee has returned all 23 medals won at the Hiroshima Asian Games in October by 11 Chinese competitors later found to have used banned drugs. It was reported Friday, The Japan-China Friendship Association, a private fraternal body in Tokyo, said the medals, 15 gold, seven silver and one bronze, had been returned by the athletes, including world swimming champion Lu Bin, the Kyodo news agency said. Lu won four women's swimming golds and two silvers at Hiroshima. The Olympic Council of Asia announced in December that it would strip the 11 Chinese of their medals after their urine samples, taken during the Games, tested positive for dehydrocorticosterone, a banned muscle-building male hormone.

Baseball mediator vows to stay

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Bill Utery, a federal mediator who spent the past four months trying to settle the U.S. baseball strike, vows to keep working despite being called "senile" by a players union official. "He's not bowing out," Utery spokesman Dick Conn said. "He has the support of the administration and he wants to stay with it." Utery on Thursday backed away from ideas he told President Bill Clinton Tuesday for a settlement. They included a 50-per cent salary tax per team above 40 million dollars, a figure about \$700,000 below the existing average salaries. That prompted union attorney Gene Orza to call 71-year-old Utery "senile," a remark for which he later apologized.

U.S. cheerleaders set for union fight

BUFFALO (AFP) — Labour fights have taken their toll in U.S. sports. Baseball is shut down. Ice hockey lost half a season. American football has been in turmoil and basketball has put off dealing with the problem. Now it is the cheerleaders' turn. The Buffalo Bills, a pom-pom squad boosting the National Football League (NFL) Buffalo Bills, won a legal ruling to be certified as the first employee union representing a cheerleader squad. The 36 Bills say they are being mistreated by the fast-food restaurant chain which manages their careers. They seek better working conditions, higher pay and a greater voice in their assignments away from the football field. "We view ourselves as a sport or at least a very large industry," said seven-year Bills' veteran Nancy Bates. "We need to protect our interests. It's about time NFL cheerleaders did this."

Unseasonable rain halts play in Dubai

DUBAI (AP) — Unseasonable rain delayed or interrupted play three times at the Dubai Open Thursday, sending Pat Cash and Alberto Costa as well as fans indoors. Costa led Cash 3-6, 6-4, 1-0 when rain halted play a second time. The weather delayed the start of the match for three hours and then again with Cash leading 4-2 in the opening set. Cash was coming off a three-set upset of fifth seed Thomas Muster of Austria in which the Australian served 14 aces. Thursday's rains were the first of the season in Dubai, which lies at the southern end of the Gulf. The inaugural Dubai Open in 1993 also suffered rains that pushed back the event by a day.

Ivanisevic in Milan tournament

MILAN (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic was a last-minute addition to the Muratti Time indoor tennis tournament, which begins at the Assago forum on Monday. Organisers of the \$678,900 Italian tournament, featuring top-seeded Boris Becker, said Thursday that they gave the Croatian a wild card entry to make up for the withdrawals of Marc Rosset and Magnus Larsson. Rosset suffered a broken bone in his foot during last week's Davis Cup match against the Netherlands. Larsson was forced to withdraw from Sweden's Davis Cup match with Denmark because of stomach problems. Ivanisevic was a losing finalist in the 1992 Milan Indoor event. Becker, who is joined in the field by fellow German Michael Stich and Spaniard Alberto Berasategui, is a two-time defending champion of the Milan tournament.

Chess grandmasters sore

SANGHINAGAR, India (AP) — Four grandmasters want the winner of a chess tournament being played in this southern Indian city to be declared the World Chess Championship. The grandmasters are sore that efforts to unify two chess organisations could result in one more match to decide the World Championship, chess experts said Friday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
1994 Tribune Media Service, Inc.

EACH CHANCE IN ITS TIME

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 5 3

♥ A 3

♦ Q J 4

♣ K 9 8 5

EAST

♠ Q 10 2

♥ K 10 9 5

♦ J 7 6 4 2

♣ 10 6 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 6 7 4

♥ Q 3

♦ A K

♣ A 10 3

The bidding:

South West North East

2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♥ Pass 6♥ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of

The secret to winning declarer play is: First, find the lines that give you play for your contract; then see if there is a way to combine them into one. Here's a pretty example.

North's two-diamond response was a waiting bid and three spades set the trump suit, while leaving maximum room for exploration.

South showed a minimum demand bid by simply raising to game and North had plenty in reserve to contract for slam.

West led a diamond, taken in the closed hand perforce. Since the diamond suit would provide a parking spot for one of declarer's losers, 12 tricks were sure as long as West did not hold all the trumps. The king of spades was cashed and South

learned that Murphy's Law had struck.

If clubs were 3-3, the 13th club would take care of declarer's heart loser, so declarer cashed the aces of spades, diamonds and clubs, then crossed to the king of clubs to take a club (1) discard on the queen of diamonds. Next came a club ruff and another chance went aglimmering when West discarded a heart.

There was one more string to declarer's bow. West was thrown in with the queen of trumps. Since a minor-suit return would permit declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding the heart loser from the other, West was forced to return a heart. That was ducked in dummy and, when East did not hold the king, the queen of hearts became the fulfilling trick.

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I Supply, installation, testing and Commissioning of the EPABX of capacity 10 + 40.

II Supply, laying underground and connecting up of Telephone cables.

Interested Bidders may collect the Bid Document on payment by cash/ demand draft addressed to Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co. Ltd., payable at Amman for a Sum of JD. (50) from the Chief Adm. & Pers. Mgr. at IJC premises in 3rd floor, Deifon Building, Shmeisani, Post Box 926787 Amman - 11110 Jordan, on any working day until 12/2/1995.

The closing time for submission of the Bids is 1200 Hrs. on 28/2/1995.

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FINA announces anti-doping crackdown

LAUSANNE (R) — Swimming's governing body announced plans on Friday for a tough crackdown on doping and said it would send investigators to China to look into a spate of positive drug tests at last year's Asian Games.

Under the crackdown — described by the international Swimming Federation (FINA) as a set of "bold new initiatives" against the use of "drugs" — swimmers using steroids face a first defence ban of more than two years and could see their previous records wiped from the books.

FINA also said it would substantially increase the number of out-of-competition dope tests this year.

FINA president Mustapha Larfaoui welcomed the crackdown, saying it would hopefully eliminate the abuses of drugs that are

possible in our sport.

Seven Chinese swimmers, including World Champions Lu Bin and Yang Aihua, tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid at last October's Asian Games in Hiroshima. All seven have received the standard two-year ban from competition.

The news came as a major shock to the sport, although Chinese sports officials have vigorously denied allegations of systematic doping.

FINA said the proposals — giving swimming some of the toughest laws on drugs — was worked out at a meeting this week of FINA executives, medical experts and FINA vice-presidents representing all five continents.

FINA said in a statement that the two-day meeting reviewed information from the International Olympic Committee-accredited laboratory in Tokyo, the IOC itself and the Chinese Swim-

ming Association.

Its first decision was to "send a FINA commission to China to investigate the involvement of coaches, doctors and team leaders in the cases of drug abuse found in Chinese swimmers in 1994."

As well as agreeing to step up out-of-competition dope tests — seen by experts as the surest way to catch dope cheats — the meeting also agreed to call for an extraordinary FINA congress.

The congress, planned for Rio de Janeiro at the end of this year, would consider five proposed rule changes:

★ That the rule on a two-year ban for first use of steroids should be rewritten to read "a minimum of two years."

★ That FINA should introduce "retroactive sanctions, including a period before the date of a positive doping test for steroid abuse." This rule was not explained but appeared to be a clear threat

that swimmers' previous records could be wiped from the books.

★ That national federations from which positive dope tests have been reported should also face sanctions.

★ That federations should be obliged to investigate coaches, doctors and team leaders "and/or any other person involved in the doping cases."

★ That dope tests should be obligatory within 48 hours of a swimmer breaking a world record or that record would not be approved.

FINA president Larfaoui said he was particularly pleased the issue had been discussed so thoroughly. "I am pleased that we have consensus on a number of new approaches to control and hopefully eliminate the abuses of drugs that are possible in our sport," Larfaoui said.

Agassi fights off Goellner

SAN JOSE (AP) — Andre Agassi fought off persistent Marc Goellner for a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 victory Thursday night in the San Jose Open.

Agassi, the top seed, displayed none of his characteristic flamboyance until late in the match, by which time he had settled in against Goellner. In the third game of the second set, he raised his arms to the crowd for applause and smiled.

"I felt like we were both playing well," said Agassi, ranked second in the world. "It was hard to pick up on his serve."

Goellner, of Germany, had 12 aces.

Agassi has won 31 of 33 matches since a second-round loss at New Haven in August, including victories in the U.S. open and the Australian Open.

He claims he is not under too much pressure to take over the top ranking from Pete Sampras.

"I'm not putting too much emphasis on it, although it's an accomplishment that if I'm there I'll be very proud of," he said. Earlier Thursday, Jim Grabb upset his former Stanford teammate and doubles partner, sixth-seeded Patrick McEnroe, 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3.

Grabb had 26 aces against McEnroe to advance to the quarterfinals. Grabb and McEnroe, who are the second-seeded doubles team, have already advanced together to the semifinals and will play again on Saturday. Brian MacPhie also moved into the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Kenny Thorne.

In other matches Thursday, Bryan Shelton beat Diego Nargiso of Italy 7-6 (11-9), 7-6 (7-4) and Greg Rusedski of Canada defeated Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-7 (7-3), 6-0, 6-4. Rusedski had a serve clocked at 134 mph (216 kph) in the match, the fastest recorded this year.

In the late match, third-seeded Jim Courier was to face Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela.

Courier advanced into the second round with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Steve Campbell. Courier won at Adelaide earlier this year and made it to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open before falling in five sets to Pete Sampras. He admits that he is off to a good start.

FIFA cancels World Youth Championships

ZURICH (AP) — Soccer's world governing body on Friday cancelled next month's World Youth Championships in Nigeria, citing health problems in the country.

FIFA said it will discuss the possibility of an alternative venue next week, although officials have said finding another site at such short notice would be tough.

The two-week, 16-team tournament for players aged 20 and under was due to be staged in four Nigerian cities March 11-26. FIFA said it felt obliged to cancel the event following reports of outbreaks of meningitis and cholera in the past few weeks.

"There have been cases of meningitis and cholera reported by health officials in Kaduna and Enugu, which together with Lagos and Ibadan were foreseen as host cities of the championships," a FIFA statement said.

"These reports were also confirmed by a member of the FIFA Sports Medical Committee visiting these areas."

"FIFA regret the need to cancel the event in Nigeria, especially as the Nigerian organisers had gone to great lengths to ensure the infrastructure and logistical arrangements for the tournament," the statement said.

FIFA executive committee member Jack Warner said in early December the facilities for the tournament were below standard, but after another visit last month, he submitted a positive report about the venues, FIFA said.

"However, the emergency committee felt that the priority had to be given to the principle of protecting the health of the youth players involved," the statement said.

With European countries effectively ruled out because they are in mid-season with all major venues being used already, the alternatives for FIFA are limited. South Africa and Saudi Arabia could be possibilities because they have well-established venues.

The championships are the second major sports event to be called off in the first six weeks of 1995. Two weeks ago, ski officials cancelled the World Alpine Skiing Championships in Sierra Nevada due to lack of snow.

It is also the second time FIFA has had to move a major event because of health reasons. In 1991, it moved the World Under-17 Championship from Ecuador to Italy because of a cholera epidemic in a border region of the South American country.

Sonics beat Bulls in OT; L.A. Clippers upset Rockets

SEATTLE (R) — Sam Vaughn drained consecutive three-pointers in overtime on Thursday to lead the Seattle SuperSonics into the mid-season All-Star break with an uplifting 126-118 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Perkins, who scored eight of his 21 points in overtime, snapped a 114-114 tie with his first three-pointer with 1:55 to play, then hit another with 38 seconds left to give Seattle a 120-114 advantage.

The Bulls moved in front late in the fourth quarter, but Perkins hit a three-pointer from the right side with 21 seconds left in regulation to force the extra session.

Shawn Kemp scored 30 points before fouling out in overtime and Detlef Schrempf added 24 for the Sonics, who have won five of their last six games to move within 3½ of first place Phoenix in the Pacific Division.

Ron Harper scored 26 points and Scottie Pippen added 24 as the Bulls finished a six-game road trip at 2-4. The game marked the first time in the last seven contests the Pippen wasn't both the Bulls' leading scorer and rebounder.

In Los Angeles, Loy Vaught scored a career-high 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the Clippers snapped a six-game losing streak with a 122-107 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Lamond Murray scored 26 points and Malik Sealy added 24 for the Clippers, who used an early 12-2 run to take control and never looked back en route to their highest point total of the season.

Hakeem Olajuwon poured in 34 points for the Rockets, who had won their last eight games

against the Clippers.

Houston played without versatile shooting guard Vernon Maxwell, who was serving the second game of his league-imposed 10-game suspension for charging into the crowd to attack a fan in Portland earlier this week.

The Clippers scored 38 points in the third quarter to take a 93-76 lead into the final period.

RESULTS

Golden State 109, Denver 101
Seattle 126, Chicago 118, OT
L.A. Clippers 122, Houston 107



French Guy Delage (c), the 42-year-old trans-Atlantic swimmer, steps ashore 9 February at Miami Beach, Barbados, after a 56-day, 3,900 kilometre ocean voyage. Delage plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the Cape Verde Islands on 16 December at the start of his swim, using a fully-equipped raft (AFP photo)

Trans-Atlantic swimmer reaches Barbados

MIAMI BEACH, Barbados (R) — A lone French swimmer on Thursday completed an unprecedented and dangerous eight-week voyage across the Atlantic when he landed on the Caribbean island of Barbados.

"It has been difficult," 42-year-old Guy Delage said after setting foot on the sand at 7:45 a.m. (1145 GMT). Still wearing his mask, he kissed his wife in the surf after she waded out to greet him, ending the 3,900 km crossing from the Cape Verde islands off Africa where he started on December 16.

During his eccentric journey, in which he was attacked by a shark and stung by jellyfish, Delage estimated he lost 14 kilos of weight — almost

the amount he gained to prepare for the swim.

But, he told reporters on his arrival, he already regretted leaving the ocean and would not hesitate to repeat the swim "if I had to do it all over again."

Tanned and with a moustache, Delage estimated he had swum about a third of the total distance and spent the rest of the time on a four metre (13 ft) long raft accompanying him, blown westwards by prevailing winds and carried by currents.

"Pretty exactly I reckon I swam 1,200 kms," he told French television TF1. He said he felt in good health, but had not slept for two days before his landing.

Delage was mobbed by a crowd of more than 200 cu-

rious island residents and journalists, before being led away for medical tests and immigration controls — bearing out his fears that the return to human society would be a shock.

"We started to fight, it was just as I'd expected," he said. He spoke warmly of the ocean and said he felt most upset by the thought that fish which had gathered under his raft and swum with him might have been caught in nets off Barbados.

"It was a dream world, a child's world, above all a world of purity. There was neither pollution nor decay," he said.

"It was a world of blue, a fairy world of blue ... grey blues, azure, a hostile and cruel world but one where one can also feel accept-

ance," he said. Delage, a flying instructor and adventurer, has defended his trip as both scientific research and a feat of endurance.

Asked what memories would stay with him, he said he would not soon forget the time he noticed a shark about to bite his leg or when he lost sight of his raft.

He repelled the shark with a sharp kick to its nose and caught up with the raft, which was pushed ahead of him by the wind, by swimming faster for a few frantic hours.

The venture cost six million francs (\$1.1 million) and was mostly funded by the makers of his swimming gear, food supplies, watch and other equipment.

MasterCard to pay \$21m for soccer championships

NEW YORK (AP) — MasterCard International on Thursday became the first sponsor of the 1998 World Cup, agreeing to pay about \$21 million for its association with the tournament and the 1996 European Championship.

The deal with ISL Marketing AG, the marketing agent for FIFA and the Union of European Football Associations, is the second straight World Cup sponsorship for MasterCard. The company will get two signboards during each game of the 1998 World Cup in France and four during each game of the 1996 European Championship in England.

The company did not release the price it paid but a source speaking on the condition he not be identified confirmed it to the Associated Press. It is about the same as MasterCard paid to sponsor the 1994 World Cup in the United States and the 1992 European Championship in Sweden.

"MasterCard's success with World Cup USA 1994 proved that the World Cup can be the perfect vehicle to achieve our card usage goals and build brand awareness worldwide," President H. Eugene Lockhart told a news conference in Paris.

Pele, soccer's best player ever, agreed to remain MasterCard's chief soccer spokesman. Pele, 54, predicted the defending champion Brazil would at least make the quarterfinals in 1998.

"It may be too soon to say, but I hope Brazil is in the final game with France," he said.

Wang leads Ma's army

BEIJING (AFP) — Ma Junren's leading foot soldier Wang Junxia has taken over his army of world beating runners for the Beijing Ekiden race next month while the coach continues his convalescence, the China Sports Daily said Friday.

Wang will also take part — but follow world record holder and world champion Qu Yunxia is mysteriously not training with the team.

The newspaper gave no

reason for the 1,500 world record holder's absence. But the sports ministry denied it was linked to other recent scandals to hit Ma's army.

Liu Dong, the other world champion, is also absent even though she has mended fences with Ma and rejoined his team in Liaoning, north-east China. The ministry spokesman said she would not run in the March 2 race because of her poor form due to lack of competition.

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Yusra, Mahmoud Hamedieh in The Immigrant Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Eric Roberts & Jeff Fahey in... FREEFALL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: THE LION KING will be shown on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.		CONCORD '1' ROBOCOP '3' Shows: 12:30, 2:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Sylvester Stallone — Sharon Stone in The Specialist Shows: 2:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawafteh Daily from 8:30 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.		Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays	

Chechens leave Grozny, leave mobile units behind

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Rebel fighters have virtually abandoned the Chechen capital Grozny but are leaving behind hit-and-run units to harass Russian troops, a Chechen military official told Interfax news agency on Friday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said clashes were occurring all over Grozny, largely destroyed by six weeks of often bloody fighting.

"The Chechen armed forces have practically all been withdrawn from Grozny... mobile units of infantry, continuously on the move, are fighting in the city," he said.

The Chechens said on Thursday they would leave Grozny, after humiliating Moscow's troops at virtually every stage of the way.

Interfax quoted Chechen sources as saying the Chechen military headquarters had been moved 20 kilometres east to the town of Argun.

Chechen commander Aslan Maskhadov vowed to continue the fight against Russian forces, who moved into the rebellious region on Dec. 11 to quash Checheny's bid for independence and entered Grozny itself on New Year's Eve.

"What's so special about one city? There is always the next city, and the next village," he said on Thursday.

President Boris Yeltsin read a report on the situation in Checheny to leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata on Friday.

But no details of the speech were made public and Russian Prime Minister Vik-

tor Chernomyrdin told a post-summit news conference that Checheny was an internal Russian matter.

Chechen diaspora leaders and Kazakh nationalists published an open letter in Alma-Ata calling for an immediate end to the Checheny fighting. "The murder of a people cannot be regarded as the internal affair of just one country," the letter said.

An Ingush mediator said Friday Chechen leaders meeting under President Dzhokhar Dudayev have vowed to pursue "the armed struggle" against Russian troops unless Moscow agrees to negotiate with them.

The so-called Congress of Chechen People, meeting at an unspecified site and date, pledged to continue resistance to the Russian intervention "if Russian authorities again decide to ignore Checheny's offer to halt military activities and open negotiations," said Ingush presidential advisor Pyotr Kosov.

"Chechen military officials have handed over a blueprint for the settlement of the Chechen conflict to the Russian high command," Mr. Kosov added.

He said the chief of staff of the Russian troops, Aslan Maskhadov, commanding Colonel Shamil Basayev, and four fighters who died in clashes with Russian troops were decorated at the congress meeting.

The Russian counter-intelligence service (FSK) meanwhile scrutinised Mr. Dudayev's personal files seized by Russian troops in the presidential palace in Grozny, Interfax said.

Documents seized in Mr. Dudayev's offices included family papers but also "important" official files and reports by Chechen security chief Sultan Geliskhanov.

In another development, the Duma — the Russian lower house — voted Friday in favour of a swap of Russian and Chechen troops taken prisoner.

The Duma called on President Yeltsin to appoint an envoy to settle the issue.

The Russian troops fully control two of Checheny's 11 districts but still face attacks from small groups of rebels south of Grozny.

"Of the 11 administrative districts in Checheny, two — Naderchayev, in the north, and Naurskaya, in the northwest — are fully under the control of federal troops," Interfax news agency quoted the Russian government's press service as saying.

About 170 of the refugees who fled these regions after the Russian intervention began returned to "the liberated territories," the press service added.

Meanwhile "Russian troops are pursuing clean-up operations" in southeast Grozny, where resistance in the capital has been concentrated for the past few days.

Russian forces were still coming under attack from "small groups of fighters" toward Chechen-Aul and Argun, 12 kilometres south and 15 kilometres southeast of Grozny.

"Despite major losses, the (Chechen) partisans continue to resist and are preparing for active combat," the press service added.



LIBERATED AREA: His Majesty King Hussein, in line with the Oct. 26 cease-fire, visits the Baqura area after the Jordan-Israel peace treaty (photo by Youssef and Jordan hoisted its flag there, restoring its

EU troika ends Mideast trip with little success in peace effort

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three senior European Union (EU) officials wound up a four-day tour of the Middle East on Friday, saying Arab and Israeli leaders were determined to shore up the peace process.

"There is a role for Europe in the peace operation, to go alongside that of the United States and Russia," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said at the presidential palace before the group's departure from Beirut at nightfall.

Mr. Juppe, who is the current president of the EU Council of Ministers, was accompanied by Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, Germany's secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Carlos Westendorp, Spain's secretary of state for the European Union.

They met during their seven-day stay in Beirut with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Fares Boudet.

The EU officials had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in occupied Jeru-

salem and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza before their first trip to Beirut since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

"What we heard from the Syrian president and from officials in Israel and the Palestinian Authority fosters our conviction that the peace process will continue despite the current obstacles," Mr. Juppe said.

Mr. Juppe also pledged increased assistance to Mr. Arafat's self-rule authorities in Gaza and Jericho.

He warned that a breakdown of the peace process would be catastrophic for the region and for international stability.

"The talks should continue, be assured that we would stand by you," Mr. Juppe said.

The EU has pledged the Palestinians \$570 million over five years — about a sixth of the total international aid package. Mr. Juppe said \$117 billion already has been spent on education and health.

region since the 1993 Palestinian autonomy accord.

"We are available. We have good relations with all the countries concerned," he said. "We are ready to play a role... to pass on messages because we are very present here, but we do not have any revolutionary proposals."

Before coming to Beirut, Mr. Juppe urged Israel to end its border closure imposed on autonomous Palestinian areas after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing killed 21 Israelis north of Tel Aviv.

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Brown ends Mideast trip

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown left the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday at the end of a week-long tour of the Middle East with a delegation of U.S. company chief executives, the Emirates news agency said.

Mr. Brown told a news conference in Abu Dhabi on Thursday he was optimistic that U.S. firms could win arms deals in UAE. He met UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan and other senior officials during the visit.

Mr. Brown also visited Egypt, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar.

The Gulf Arab state plans to buy frigates, naval helicopters and strike aircraft. U.S. firms which want to sell them are facing hot competition from European arms manufacturers.

"All we have ever sought is the ability to compete on a level playing field. Given that, we believe American companies will win in the overwhelming majority of instances," Mr. Brown said (in Abu Dhabi).

Mr. Brown and UAE leaders also discussed trade, the Middle East peace process and Gulf security issues.

The U.S. mission's visit comes before the IDEX defence show in Abu Dhabi in March, when defence experts expect the UAE to announce arms deals or at least state its intentions.

Among the chief executives travelling with Mr. Brown was W.R. Phillips of Tenneco Inc. unit Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), which is one of five contenders for a frigate deal with the UAE.

In Kuwait City, Mr. Brown delivered a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton to the Emir of Kuwait, the official news agency KUNA reported.

The message was given to Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah by Mr. Brown.

COLUMN

Castro buys business suits to liven up his wardrobe

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch fashion designer says Cuban strongman Fidel Castro would look right at home on Wall Street in the new business suits she's sold him. Known for his trademark green military fatigues, the Communist leader called in Rotterdam designer Merel Van 't Wout after seeing her suits being worn by fashionable Cubans. Ms. Van 't Wout said she visited the Caribbean island state several times late last year to give Mr. Castro fittings. "He normally wears warm green," Ms. Van 't Wout said Thursday. "He looks great in it and I think that's fine, but my advice is something else." But the ruler of Cuba for 36 years won't be putting his famed fatigues in mothballs, said Ms. Van 't Wout. The three suits she made for him are for appearances at international conferences. The Cuban embassy confirmed the new look. "It's normal. It's not something from out of space," said a woman who answered the phone, but declined to give her name. Ms. Van 't Wout, who advises her clients on what colours suit them best, picked dark blue, grey, and of course — green. The 67-year-old designer had chosen a pair of black shoes and a light blue shirt to complete the ensemble.

Home of Florida's top law officer burglarised for fourth time

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Florida's top law enforcement officer has been having a tough time with crime — in his own home. Four times in four years, burglars have broken into Attorney General Bob Butterworth's house. "Each time, I have less and less," he joked Thursday hours after the latest burglary. "I do have a toaster. The latest break-in cost him about \$1,000 worth of property, including clothes, liquor, a compact disc player and a video recorder. Add those items to a list of about \$1,100 worth of jewelry, a World War II vintage Luger 9mm pistol worth about \$400, and a microwave — among other items stolen during burglaries in May 1991, October 1991 and July 1993. Mr. Butterworth — who lives with his wife and their two children — has always been reluctant to install a security system. But he said he's now thinking seriously about taking that step. He's also considering buying a dog.

Los Angeles woman gives birth to quintuplets

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 26-year-old Los Angeles woman gave birth to healthy quintuplets. The tiny babies — two boys and three girls — were born to Marcelia Quetzada by Caesarean section and were listed in stable condition at the Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Centre hospital officials said. Ms. Quetzada was admitted in mid-November, where doctors worked to prevent an early delivery and help her carry the babies to full term, a hospital spokeswoman said. The infants — Andrew, Raymond, Tiffany, Kimberly and Patricia — ranged in weight from two pounds, two ounces (963 grams) to three pounds 11 ounces (1,333 kg).

Dead man given 24 years in slammer

TURIN, Italy (AFP) — A Turin court sentenced a dead man to 24 years in prison, Italian newspapers reported. The accused, Tommaso Cerrado, a small-time hoodlum from Catanzaro in Calabria, had been shot dead two months earlier but nobody had bothered to inform the judges or lawyers in the case. Mr. Cerrado, 24, was sentenced on Jan. 28 for the 1990 murder of a fellow Calabrian after the traditional closing of the judicial year and defence pleadings in the Turin Assize Court. It was only on Feb. 3 that the judges learned that he had been shot dead on Nov. 30 in Milan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat supporters, foes clash in Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's supporters and foes clashed briefly in Lebanon's largest refugee camp overnight. Police said Friday no casualties were reported. They said machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades were used in the hour-long clash around midnight (2200 GMT Thursday) at 'Ain Al Hilweh camp, home for 60,000 Palestinians on the southeastern outskirts of this port city. The battle erupted when a pro-Arafat activist, returning to 'Ain Al Hilweh from prolonged absence, was greeted by comrades with staccato volleys of rifles fired in the air. That angered Mr. Arafat's enemies, who are led by breakaway PLO Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Makdahi, who opened up on the Arafat activists after they refused to stop their noisy celebration, according to a police statement. Col. Makdahi and leaders from Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction intervened to stop the clash, the statement added.

Iranian official says Rushdie must die

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian official has said that Tehran's death edict against Salman Rushdie remains in force and that the writer must be killed, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mahmoud Vaezi, as saying in Paris Wednesday that the death sentence against Mr. Rushdie "would not change by any means." IRNA said he "underlined the need for the implementation of the fatwa (religious edict) against the writer of the blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses'." Mr. Vaezi was speaking during a stopover on his return to Iran from his two-day visit to Denmark. Danish officials said Mr. Vaezi had assured them that Tehran would not be sending assassins to kill Mr. Rushdie, who will mark his sixteenth anniversary under the Tehran death sentence on Feb. 14. Mr. Vaezi was scheduled also to visit Sweden as part of a Scandinavian tour, but Stockholm withdrew its invitation at the last moment, citing pressure from Norway, with which Iran is entangled in a diplomatic row.

Denmark opens office in Jericho

JERICHO (AFP) — Denmark became Friday the third country to open a representative office in the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho, diplomats said. Germany and the Netherlands have already moved into the oasis of some 15,000 people in the Jordan Valley since autonomy was launched in May. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has chosen Gaza City for his headquarters and Egypt, Morocco, and Norway have opened representations there.

Baghdad rebuilds bombed bridge

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq announced Friday it has rebuilt a 340-metre suspension bridge over the Tigris River in Baghdad that was destroyed in the Gulf war four years ago. The July 14 bridge, built in 1964 and named after a military coup, collapsed after a U.S.-led coalition air raid on Feb. 9, 1991. "Ceremonies will soon be held to mark the reopening of the bridge," Abdul Khaled Al Darawi, an engineer in the reconstruction work, told Iraqi newspapers. Allied warplanes destroyed three out of Baghdad's dozen bridges over the Tigris in the war which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait. The other two bridges have already been rebuilt.

Thieves steal two tonnes of antiquities

ANKARA (R) — Thieves this week probably used large vehicles and cranes to steal antiquities from a site in Turkey which weighed a total of two tonnes, Culture Ministry officials said on Friday. It was the third large antiquities theft at Nysa, in the west of the country, in three years. The items taken were a marble statue of a headless woman and two marble reliefs of Roman feasting scenes. "The three items were taken some time in the week — no doubt with large vehicles and some sort of crane," said Engin Ozgen, head of the ministry's monuments and museums department. "This is an obvious case of neglect on the part of the local authorities," he said. "They have been warned several times." Turkey is prominent prey to organised criminal networks specialising in antiquities theft. The Culture Ministry has spent millions of dollars in lawyers' fees trying to repatriate stolen items from the West. "This is the third time in as many years that Nysa has been robbed," said Ozgen Acar, a campaigner for the preservation of antiquities in Turkey. "Is no-one bothered?" Nysa's ruins, which date back to the third-century B.C., lie among trees in a deep gorge and are loosely guarded. Officials said the value of the items could not be easily determined.

Religious students take town near Kabul

KABUL (AP) — A new Islamic militia made up of religious students scored its most important to date Friday when it captured a key town only 30 kilometres outside Kabul.

The Taliban movement, which did not exist as a military force until late last year, has rapidly emerged as one of the most powerful factions in the multi-sided civil war.

The group defeated Hezbe-Islami, the main opposition group, in a battle for the town of Maidan Shahr that began Thursday afternoon and lasted into the early hours of Friday morning.

The town is 30 kilometres southwest of Kabul and sits on the main road leading into the capital.

Taliban soldiers were in full control of the town Friday when an Associated Press reporter visited. The town was quiet and some businesses were open. The soldiers were hanging out at a court building and some were sleeping.

Mohammad Rabbani, a Taliban commander, said the group had tried to negotiate with Hezbe-Islami, "but we failed to reach agreement so we attacked."

The Taliban has not aligned itself with any of the 10 other factions locked in a bitter power struggle for Kabul.

Abu Nidal hit man arrested in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — A man believed to be the top assassin for the Palestinian Abu Nidal group has been arrested in this southern Lebanese port city, security sources disclosed Friday.

The man was identified as Mahmoud Khaled Eintour, alias Abu Ali Majed, 48, a Palestinian with a Jordanian passport. The sources said he headed the assassination branch of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council faction.

Eintour has been known as a ranking Abu Nidal lieutenant. But this was the first time he was identified as head of the group's "liquidation department," said security sources.

Lebanon has long been a haven for extremists from throughout the Middle East and Europe. But since the end of its 1975-1990 civil war, the Beirut government has been trying to restore its authority.

It could not be determined why Eintour was arrested at this time or whether Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, had approved the move amid international efforts to get peace talks restarted between Damascus and Israel.

Security sources said Eintour would probably be brought to trial after his interrogation on charges of hijacking, kidnapping and murder was completed.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, tops the most wanted lists in a number of Arab countries as well as Europe and the United States for attacks that have left scores of civilians and diplomats dead.

Most infamous is the gun assault on passenger terminals at the Rome and Vienna airports on Dec. 27, 1985, which killed 17 people. The security sources said they could not tell whether Eintour was involved in this attack.

Lebanese military authorities blame Eintour for the 1987 hijacking of a French yacht off Gaza, in which five Belgians, a Frenchwoman with her two small daughters on board were held hostage for up to three years.

Eintour also was suspected of masterminding the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Naeb Omran Maaytah in Beirut Jan. 29, 1994, the sources said, speaking on

condition of anonymity. He is also believed responsible for engineering the murder of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security chief Atef Bseiso in Paris June 8, 1992. The murder sparked a rash of tit-for-tat killings between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's and Abu Nidal's supporters, and Eintour is believed responsible for organising the hits on the PLO victims, said the sources.

The source said Eintour was also suspected of masterminding the May 21, 1988 abduction of Belgian physician Jan Cools, 39, who worked for Norwegian humanitarian organisation Norwac in South Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. He was released in Sidon at Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's request June 15, 1989.

Eintour offered no resistance when he was picked by the Lebanese army intelligence branch from his house in Sidon's Taamir neighbourhood earlier this week, said the sources. Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city, is 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

The sources said they did not know whether any arms

were seized in the house. Eintour was taken to a maximum security jail at the Defence Ministry in suburban Yarz, eight kilometres east of the Lebanese capital, the sources said.

In the yacht hijacking-kidnap saga in November 1987, Abu Nidal's group claimed Belgian brothers on board were spies for Israel's Mossad secret service. The captives denied the charge after they were freed.

The incident, which ended three years later, followed a spate of hostage-taking attacks by Iranian-backed extremists in the latter stages of the civil war.

The last of the boat hostages were freed Jan. 13, 1991 in exchange of the freedom of Nasser Saeed, an Abu Nidal activist who was serving a life sentence for a 1980 attack in Antwerp.

Those hostages were Belgians Emmanuel Houckens, his wife Godelieve and their children, Laurent and Valerie.

The other hostages were Houckens' brother, Ferdinand, and his French girlfriend, Jacqueline Valente.

Alleged leader in New York blast pleads innocent

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The man accused of being the brains behind the bombing of the World Trade Centre has pleaded innocent, following nearly two years as an international fugitive.

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef appeared Thursday before U.S. District Judge John F. Keenan in an arraignment that lasted less than five minutes. Twenty U.S. marshals lined the courtroom.

He had been brought to New York from Pakistan, where the government said he had explosives and bomb-making chemicals in his possession when he was arrested.

He was clean shaven, a contrast with the bearded picture on FBI posters, and dressed in a blue, double-breasted suit.

Looking calm and confident, Mr. Yousef said "I plead not guilty" to 11 counts relating to the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing. His next court appearance was set for Wednesday. If convicted of the most serious charges, he could face life in prison without parole.

"He's in remarkably good

spirits considering the ordeal he's been through," said his assigned lawyer, Avraham C. Moskowitz.

Mr. Moskowitz denied reports that his client was cooperating with authorities and had blamed Iraq for the bombing.

Mr. Yousef, 27, had escaped from New York the night of the bombing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was close to nabbing him last month in the Philippines, where he was linked to a failed plot to assassinate the Pope.

The bombing of the World Trade Centre killed six people, injured more than 1,000 and caused \$500 million in damage.

Prosecutors say Mr. Yousef bought chemicals, left fingerprints at an apartment used as a bomb factory and was seen in the van that carried the bomb.

Four men were convicted last March and given life sentences. Another pleaded guilty to a minor role. A seventh suspect is still at large.

New York Times quoted

the officials as saying Mr. Yousef's origins were still unclear, with reports saying he was born either in Iraq, Pakistan or Kuwait. The daily also cites Arab speakers who have detected a Palestinian accent in Mr. Yousef after hearing recordings of his conversations.

Pakistani police have arrested a South African religious student who was with Mr. Yousef the evening before his capture, according to reports Friday.

Istiaque Parker, the South African, was picked up after the arrest of Mr. Yousef, said the News, an English-language daily.

Police and government officials said they were checking, but could not immediately confirm Mr. Parker's arrest. South African diplomats also said they also were trying without success to locate Mr. Parker. There was no word on what charges Mr. Parker might face.

Mr. Parker, who studies at the Islamic University in Islamabad, led Mr. Yousef to the Su-Casa guest house on Monday afternoon and the two

went out for coffee that evening, hotel manager Musawar Qazi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Parker lives in an apartment just across the street from the guest house, a two-storey, whitewashed home on a quiet residential street in Islamabad, Mr. Qazi said.

About 10 Pakistani and U.S. law enforcement officials burst into the hotel Tuesday morning, raced up the stairs and arrested Mr. Yousef in room 16, a small, tidy room with two single beds.

Mr. Yousef was blindfolded and his hands and legs were tied with rope. He was dragged away before he could put on shoes or socks, Mr. Qazi added.

"It was like a hurricane. They stormed in and left in less than five minutes," said Khalid Sheikh, a guest at the hotel.

According to Mr. Sheikh, Mr. Yousef shouted, "Why are you holding me?" and "I'm innocent, I'm innocent."

One of Mr. Yousef's two

suitcases contained explosives hidden inside two toy cars as well as chemicals used in bomb-making, said Pakistan's Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar.

U.S. and Pakistani authorities examined Mr. Yousef's two suitcases for hours before taking them away, added Mr. Qazi.

Mr. Yousef, an Iraqi, had a false Pakistani identity card and had registered under the alias Ali Mohammad, said Mr. Qazi.

He made several local calls and also phoned twice to the northwestern city of Peshawar, where he is thought to have received military training.

Pakistani officials have given conflicting accounts of Mr. Yousef's capture and some details are still unclear.

The officials said, incorrectly, that the suspect had been picked up at the Holiday Inn hotel. They also gave contradictory accounts about whether Mr. Yousef was travelling with Iraqi or Pakistani travel documents.

(Continued on page 3)